



EDMUND FERRERS.

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S K E T C H E S
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SOCIETY AND MANNERS
I N
P O R T U G A L.

1778
IN A SERIES OF LETTERS

1787
FROM

K
ARTHUR WILLIAM COSTIGAN, Esq.

LATE A CAPTAIN OF THE IRISH BRIGADE
IN THE SERVICE OF SPAIN,

TO HIS BROTHER IN LONDON.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

Rara temporum felicitate, ubi sentire quæ velis,
et quæ sentias dicere liceat,

TACIT.

Contrasted faults thro' all their manners reign ;
Though poor, luxurious ; though submissive, vain ;
Though grave, yet trifling ; zealous, yet untrue ;
And even in penance, planning sins anew.

GOLDSMITH'S TRAVELLER,

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR T. VERNOR, BIRCHIN - LANE,
CORNHILL.

S. K. E. T. C. H. E. S.

SOCIETY OF MINERS

IN

P. O. R. T. U. C. A. I.

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS

TO THE

LATE WILLIAM COSTIGAN, F.R.S.

LATE A CAPTAIN OF THE 13th REGIMENT

OF THE ARMY

TO HIS SON, THE

IN TWO VOLUMES



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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE frequent perusal of the following Letters written to me from Portugal, and which have been now a very considerable time in my possession, has naturally engaged the attention of my leisure moments in a more particular manner, towards the present State and Government of that country; and having remarked how miserably these have been, and still continue to be misrepresented daily in our public papers, even to the names of persons and places, mangled and mistated: and having, moreover, had many opportunities of discoursing on the same subject with my brother after his return from Portugal, and before he went to reside in Ireland, and still more particularly with that sensible and well-informed Officer Colonel Priole, now living at some miles distant from this city, upon an easy and philosophical competency: I have considered the publication of these Letters as a duty I owe to that public of which I have the happiness to be an humble member, as well to undeceive them, in regard to those articles, puffs and paragraphs daily handed about, as coming from, or concerning Portugal, as to present them with a new and authentic body of information, concerning the Government and present situation of that country.

Having literally followed my brother's directions, as communicated to me in his twentieth Letter, of the following publication, I here request it may be considered as containing my true reasons for laying his Letters before the public, and also as a prefatory introduction to them; and I have been so scrupulous in preserving every thing essential which he wrote to me, that I have not ventured to suppress even what he says concerning the Reviewers, at whom he glances in the abovementioned Letter. For my own part, I have both heard and read repeated complaints, which appeared to me to be well founded, of the illiberal behaviour of the Reviewers, and of their irritable, cynical disposition: If such it be in reality, I sincerely pray God to forgive them, to inspire them with the true spirit of meekness towards all poor Authors REALLY within the reach of their lash, and that they may be more charitably disposed towards all men in general, imitating the liberal and lenient disposition ever remarkable in a candid and impartial public, towards all those who shew themselves sincerely disposed to contribute either to their instruction or entertainment.

LONDON,

1787.

CHARLES A. COSTIGAN.

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S K E T C H E S
O F
S O C I E T Y A N D M A N N E R S
I N
P O R T U G A L.

L E T T E R I.

Cadiz, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER,

I AM thus far advanced on my road to join you, in consequence of your generous and friendly proposal, and I hope the plan you have laid out will succeed according to our mutual wishes. I am delighted to find you have such sanguine hopes of seeing our beautiful island soon emancipated from that slavery and bondage under which

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it has groaned for so many ages. Grant Heaven they may be equally well founded; but I confess I dare not yet venture to suppose, so readily as you seem to do, that the British Cabinet will be easily induced to change that oppressive conduct towards Ireland, to which they have been so uniformly and so long accustomed: nor does the bad success of their endeavours to oppress the Americans seem yet to produce the salutary effects in their Councils it ought to have done, by disposing them to grant to others an equal share of that liberty they are so jealous of preserving for themselves. Their haughty carriage towards other nations, that spirit of grasping every where at trade, and monopolizing in their own favour, joined to the late insolent behaviour to their Countrymen beyond the Atlantic, has alienated and cooled the sentiments of mankind in their favour; and while the intelligent of every nation are com-

compelled to approve and applaud the equitable and noble form of their Government, unexampled either in antient or modern times, they must at the same time deplore the frailty of human nature, and lament that so fine a system is threatened with dissolution, through the unprincipled, corrupt and venal disposition of the far greater part of its members.

I found more difficulty in obtaining my dismissal from the service here than I expected; and afterwards discovered that the greatest obstacles that had been thrown in my way, proceeded from the affection of my Brother Officers of the Regiment to which I belonged, who were unwilling to lose me: before I left them, I took an opportunity of testifying my sense of the partiality with which they had honoured me. What pity it is, that the services of such a brave and gallant number of our Compatriots should be not only lost to their country, but di-

rected immediately against its interest; for I am positive, from what I could learn at Madrid, and now see going on at this place, that, on one side at least, a Spanish war is resolved on, and cannot be far distant. With regard to any impediments arising, from religious prejudices on the part of those fine fellows I have just left, I am conscious that whatever might have been the case in former times, they now no longer exist; and they talk with a spirit of compassionate derision of those unhappy days, when speculative opinions had the dismal influence of raising feuds, disorder and scandal in the society of civil life; and, were it not attested by a thousand examples of the most unexceptionable authority, they could with difficulty credit what is related of the fatal effects of Protestant and Catholic Creeds upon the lives, the properties and liberty of such a number of religious victims; but what delights me still
more

more is, that even in this country, they are not singular in adopting this happy turn of sentiment. I have had many opportunities of conversing with numbers of Spanish Gentlemen who are in the same persuasion, which seems the most to pervade persons of education and in the higher ranks of life. Many Officers in the Spanish Guards, and of high military rank, are perfectly sensible of the abuses of their present Government, the insolence of the Clergy and oppressions of the Church; and consider, with indignation and rage, the present deplorable state of their own political Councils, so servilely subjected to the over-ruling Cabinet of Versailles; and notwithstanding the late demonstration of inquisitorial severity, supported by the Royal authority, (which I may have occasion to mention on some future opportunity) and that they know it would still be dangerous to publish their sentiments, they neverthe-

less entertain the most earnest expectations, of seeing their country emerge from that state of apathy and desolation, to which oppression at home, and colonisation abroad, have reduced it.

But to return to our particular business—I have received the liberal supply of credit which you remitted me, and I accept it literally and only upon the terms on which you offer it; and upon those alone it is that I have thrown myself, as you see, entirely into your power, from a thorough conviction that you are incapable of making an improper use of it; I have at your request abandoned a creditable Service in which I have reason to believe I have employed with reputation some of the best years of my life, and trust the issue of my future fortune upon the credit of your good faith and veracity.

But as there is nothing like talking clearly and explicitly, especially between
intimate

intimate friends where the disguising of our sentiments in the smallest degree may be particularly dangerous, I must begin by telling you, that I look upon myself as a perfectly free Agent, subject to no manner of controul, answerable for my actions only to God and my conscience, and accountable to no man, so long as I act in conformity to the established laws of the Society of which I happen to be a member; I do not therefore expect, that you will avail yourself of the casual advantage of having seen the light a few years before me, to claim the smallest right to dictate to, or direct me in any circumstance whatever; let the pure and unbiaſſed dictates of Reason be our only guides; to which if we both constantly adhere, no difference in matters of opinion will ever cause the smallest in our mutual friendship and fraternal affection: mine, I assure you, is most hearty and sincere; nor is it from the smallest dif-

fidence in the genuine purity of your's that I now mention the above circumstances ; on the contrary, it is from the most earnest desire of preserving it entire and inviolate, that I thought it my duty, at first setting out, to open my heart to you without reserve, and to request, that, if your own behaviour to me shall continue to be formed and regulated on principles similar to those I have mentioned, you will disown and abandon me whenever you shall be convinced that I have departed from them.

Upon these conditions it is that I accept your offer most heartily ; for it is noble, affectionate, and disinterested ; and such as I should with alacrity have made to you in an exchange of circumstances ; besides, what you propose is so peculiarly adapted to my present disposition and turn of mind, that I cannot help congratulating myself in the thought of possessing a Brother, equally able and willing to indulge me in my favourite

yourite desire of retiring with an elegant competency, to a life of self-enjoyment and contemplation ; not that I am by any means out of humour with mankind, or dissatisfied with their behaviour toward so small an individual as myself, but I rejoice in thinking how much I shall have it in my power to mix with them according to my inclination only, or to withdraw into the Province of Connaught to the sweet old Sabine farm, where with transport I anticipate the satisfaction of stretching under the antient Oaks and of breathing our native air, upon the very spot which produced such a long line of our Ancestors, and which kindly received them again into its bosom, after fulfilling and finishing the different tasks they were destined to perform.

Since writing the above, I am informed of a small Vessel going from hence to the coast of Algarve in Portugal, engaged by
an

an English officer from Gibraltar, who has been so civil as to permit my embarking along with him, and we sail almost immediately ; I am glad of the opportunity of curtailing so much of my journey by this conveyance, for I am already too well experienced in the nature of Spanish Posadas* ever to desire availing myself of such uncomfortable lodgings, while I can avoid it. Adieu, my dear friend, you shall hear from me very soon after my arrival in Portugal ; on your part, I beg to hear from you, on receiving this, directing as before, to the care of our correspondent in Lisbon, who will be instructed how he is to remit your Letters to me,

I remain, &c.

* A Spanish country Inn of the worst sort, where you are allowed only the use of an empty dirty room, and you must fend out into the village to enquire for and purchase bread, wine, or whatever else you may want, or can get.

L E T.

L E T T E R II.

Faro, in Portugal, 1778. *South, &
in the North point of the
Gulf of Cadiz. N 4 37*

DEAR BROTHER,

A BRISK Levant wind brought us here in a few hours, and much more speedily than I expected, in an open boat, being one of many which are employed upon the coast in fishing for pilchards and oysters, as occasions offer, and carrying them to the Cadiz market.

I met with the most cordial reception from the English Officer, whose name I find to be Lord Freeman, of a most respectable family; he is well attended by domestics and a French valet de chambre, who has accompanied him in former peregrinations, and appears to be a sensible commu-

communicative fellow. He informs me, that he suspects the motive of his master's present journey is a mistress, otherwise he finds it difficult to account for his travelling in a country so little deserving of notice as Portugal, and yet from what his Lordship says himself, I am inclined to think curiosity alone has incited him to take this trip; though I have already observed something inconsistent in his measures for which I find it not easy to account.

During our passage from Cadiz to this place, we had much conversation concerning the present state of Spain, the politics and disposition of the Court with regard to America. Lord Freeman does not seem to apprehend that Spain will enter into the quarrel, in which however I begged leave to differ from him in opinion. His first intention was, on our arrival at this place, to set out directly for Lisbon; but the British Consul here, who has entertained us with every

every mark of hospitality and attention, having delivered him some letters he had received for him from Lisbon, I find the perusal of them has made him change his plan, and he now intends to visit the frontiers of the kingdom, and to examine the state of the provinces before he enters the capital. Having thus far explained to me his intentions, he most earnestly intreated me to accompany him, and being by your indulgence unlimited with respect to time, I could not resist the inducement held out to me of taking a nearer view of the Portuguese nation, that I may be able to ascertain, on the evidence of my own personal knowledge and observation, whether they really are the dastardly contemptible people their neighbours the Castilians represent them to be. My acquaintance with the Spanish language renders that of this country almost perfectly intelligible to me; but to obviate every difficulty in that respect.

spect, Lord Freeman takes a young Priest in company with him, who is a perfect master both of English and Portuguese, and was strongly recommended to him by the British Consul here, as a Youth of great personal knowledge and talents, and as a character which always procures a more favourable reception to strangers travelling through the interior parts of this country.

This town is pleasantly situated, with a fine variegated country about it, rising gradually to a high ridge of mountains about two leagues distance, which separate this from the neighbouring province of Alentejo. The chief trade from this province consists in figs and almonds, some wine, oranges, cork and shumack, carried on exclusively by three or four English houses established here, which make exorbitant gains, considering the reduced rates at which they purchase the different articles from the poor peasants of the country. I wish

to

to speak in the most respectful terms of a profession in which you have been so fortunate ; but I have reason to believe, a conscientious trader is a character as rare as it is truly valuable and deserving of respect. The opportunities which offer of taking extraordinary profits are so frequent in many branches of commerce, especially with foreign nations, so perfectly safe, and sometimes even honourable, and the immediate prospect of great gain so alluring, that it requires a philosophical spirit of steady disinterestedness, which I am afraid few persons long accustomed to trade will be found possessed of, to resist such inviting temptations. Under the notion of making the best bargain they can, they imagine they are justified in every species of extortion, which the wants of the poor, and by far the greater part of the community afford them occasions of exercising : thus the riches of a country, which ought to be dispersed among

mong the multitude, center unjustly in a few private hands, and a stop is put to that due circulation so indispensable to the health of the state. The question therefore in my humble opinion comes to this short and decisive issue: Who more truly deserves the animadversion of the law, he who sitting at ease in his counting-house; unimpelled by any manner of necessity, by means of an atrocious bargain, with a few strokes of his pen deprives a number of his needy fellow creatures of the reasonable fruits of their labour? or the unfortunate Caitif, who with a Wife and starving Infants, perishing in some lonely corner, and looking up to him for bread, stops you on the road, and perhaps compels you to supply him with a few shillings for his present urgent necessity? and yet, O deplorable imperfection of human nature and of human laws! you shall soon see the latter conveyed in dismal procession to the fatal tree,

tree, while the privileged plunderer will hardly bestow a look from his palace, much less a thought upon the hapless Victim of his own injustice! I am inadvertently led into these reflections, by what I have already seen of the extortions of the English merchants, during the short time I have been here, and their gross impositions upon the poor peasants and labourers of the ground, while the unworthy and famished magistrates and officers of justice, whose first duty it is to protect the property and persons of those whose labour is the first support of the state, receive a Sop from the merchants, and suffer them to plunder their countrymen with impunity.

This place was the Ossonoba of the antients, and I am informed, that an English fleet after taking Cadiz from Philip II. in 1595-6, landed some troops here, who, after plundering and burning the town, carried off the Library of the celebrated

Jeronimo Ozorio, Bishop of Silves, who was perhaps the best classical scholar this country ever produced, witness his History of the Reign of their great King Don Emmanuel, in Latin, and in a style which would have been very far from discrediting a production of the Augustan Age. After this, the same English fleet went to Corrunna and Ferrol, with an intention of burning the King's ships had they found any there.

We shall set out from hence to-morrow for the Guadiana, where we propose taking water, for some leagues up to the frontiers of the Alentejo, and a Mr. Bagot, a countryman of our own, Colonel of a Portuguese regiment quartered here, insists upon accompanying us as far as Castro Marin. I shall take care to inform you of our motions and adventures as you desire.

I shall conclude this with some reflections on your last epistle, which have occurred to
me

me since my perusing it with more attention.

Peace be to the manes of our aged and well-meaning father, who, as you write me, died in all the prejudices of education, confirmed by the uniformity of a long rustic life upon the same spot. But I imagined the custom in our country of the lineal descendants, bequeathing at their death to their children large estates, which have long since passed into the hands of strangers, was now exploded and become obsolete; at any rate, the disposition of the old man in my favour, however friendly, would have been but of little avail, had it not been seconded by the favourable opportunity which offered of re-purchasing with your money the old Sabine farm, to the possession of which I now look forward with so much satisfaction. But, I think I observe a sort of ambiguity in the account you give me of that transaction,

which I apprehend proceeds from a sense of delicacy in you towards those prejudices in which we were educated, and which you imagine have still kept hold of me, by having lived so long in a country where the established and only religion is that of the Church of Rome ; for what else can you mean, when you tell me that having altered your opinions in many essential points concerning the religion in which we were brought up, you had been obliged to read your recantation before you were permitted by the laws of Ireland to re-purchase the mansion of our Ancestors for me ? I must therefore observe to you, my dear Brother, for your information, that my opinions both concerning men and things are exceedingly changed since we parted, a circumstance by no means surprising, considering my youth and inexperience at the time, and the number of years elapsed since that period. Let me ask you then, what would
be

be your surprise, if I assured you mine consists in beholding that notwithstanding all the hurry of so active a life, in the midst of the numberless avocations which have occupied all your time since you engaged in business in London, you have had the penetration and discernment to find out the errors of our education, and of the principles instilled by it, together with the resolution to renounce and lay them aside? for in general, the lives of the Catholics both in England and Ireland, are so moral, regular and exemplary, and the grossness and absurdity of their tenets are there disguised with such insinuating address, and their repugnance to Reason and the Scripture is gilded over with such soothing and plausible arguments, that it is by no means surprising to find, according to experience, not only those retained in that persuasion who have been educated in it, but their numbers daily increased by additional pro-

felytes from other Sects, through the persevering labours of persons professedly educated in the practice of all those pious impositions so perfectly well calculated to entrap the unwary devotion, and to interest the weak and superstitious hopes and fears of the superficial part of mankind. To discern therefore the truth from error, where they both appear under the same exterior habit, requires stronger efforts of skill and resolution in England and Ireland, than are necessary in Spain or Portugal, where the insolence and absurdity of the Roman modes of worship stalk abroad in full day without disguise, supported by the whole authority of the Civil power, and consecrated by the blind and unconscious devotion of a senseless populace, habituated to slavery and chains, and only subject to the casual criticism of some straggling traveller, who is reduced to the unavailing satisfaction of despising such insults on the
Deity,

Deity, with all the circumspection of cautious silence.

But I find I have already filled up my paper—perhaps I shall have occasion to resume the subject in future, and tell you my farther sentiments on a concern of such importance, begging to know how nearly they tally with your own? Mean time, I remain, as always, &c. &c.

LETTER III.

Sat. 37 Mertola, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER,

I DID not intend to trouble you with this before we had reached the city of Beja, formerly one of the principal places in this province ; but the information we have collected from two of our countrymen, in our journey through the Algarve, has furnished me with materials for an epistle or two before I proceed farther, according to your injunctions, which I am perfectly well disposed to comply with ; and I think it is particularly fortunate that we met with these two officers, for by their means we were at once initiated
into

into the knowledge of the civil and military government of this country.

The communicative disposition of Haudricourt, the French valet de chambre, has also enabled me to tell you who my companion Lord Freeman is, and on what business he comes to this country—I must here add, that I find him of the most engaging and affable disposition, humane, unaffected and sincere; and am apprehensive, that in character he possesses the manly and commendable qualities of your former English Nobility, much rather than the frivolous and contemptible characteristics by which the dissipated and venal race of the present day is so remarkably distinguished. Take some account of Lord Freeman as follows,

He is the eldest son of a noble family in England, and heir to a large fortune, and at present a Captain in the army, his regiment being in Gibraltar: and in an excursion

sion he had made the year before to England, to vary the uniformity of a Garrison life, had accidentally there met a young Lady at a Summer Assembly on Blackheath near London, whose manner, appearance and deportment made instantly that sort of inexplicable impression, which is to be felt only once in life, but not to be defined by words in any language ; for though then past the twenty-fifth year of his age, and well acquainted both with men and books, by having employed a very considerable share of his time *in travelling and study*, in the company of a sensible friend, yet this was the first moment he had felt any manner of attachment for the sex, beyond the transient and desultory gusts of passion to which all young men are more or less liable. He even danced with his fair one that evening, and by frequent visits he afterwards paid her in London during his short stay there, his regard for, and attachment
to

to her became so much the more increased and confirmed. On her part, the young Lady, though exceedingly prudent and reserved, was very far from being insensible of the many valuable qualifications she thought she observed in her Lover. Thus far, so pure, so genuine and disinterested was their mutual passion, and their conversation had been so totally taken up in more interesting subjects, that neither of them had so much as thought of enquiring who each other was, nay not even their very names.

But now the moment approached when they must part, most probably for some considerable time, as Lord Freeman had just been remanded to his regiment, without being able, after repeated applications at the War-office, to obtain a prolongation of his leave of absence : they endeavoured, however, to console each other by now taking information of their respective families,

milies, circumstances, and situations; and settling a method of correspondence, during an absence which they hoped would not exceed six or eight months; for the young Lady had received repeated advices from her parents abroad that they were to send for her within that time, when Lord Freeman, by obtaining some months leave for an excursion from his garrison, would have an opportunity of seeing her again, and of ultimately settling all the means of rendering them both completely happy in the possession of each other: and this brings me to give you some account of the young Lady's family.

The caprice of Fate or Fortune is in no instance surely more visible than in the destination of marriages, and in the strange and whimsical manner after which the greatest number of them is adjusted and concluded; and though the multitude of our sentimental, novel and romance writers,
and

and dealers in tender tales of love, assure us that *marriages are made in Heaven*, yet, certainly, a dispassionate observer, who beholds the general state of human affairs, at least on our part of the globe, through no other medium than the pure light of Reason, would be strongly tempted to conclude, they were almost all of them conducted and agreed upon in a very different and opposite quarter.

Frances Mary Howard, mother of the young Lady mentioned above, and pretty nearly related to a very noble family in England, had at an early age been deprived of both her parents, who, while they lived, had been scrupulously careful to have their daughter educated in all the dogmatical tenets of the Roman faith, appointing for her tutors and guardians at their decease, persons of the same persuasion, with a fortune of twenty thousand pounds at her own disposal, as soon as she
came

came of age, provided she married a Gentleman of the same religion, and only one thousand pounds, if she married one of any other. And this singular care of her parents was perfectly well seconded by her own natural disposition; for when she arrived at the use of reason, and began to look about her in London and many parts which she visited of the adjacent country, she was extremely shocked to find her favourite religion was so far from being the established and prevailing religion of the land, that it was by no means permitted to display itself in all that pomp and splendour, in which it appears in many countries abroad, the descriptions whereof constantly rung in her ears from her infancy by her various attendants, who had been mostly educated in those countries, had quite captivated her warm imagination, and inflamed it with the most violent desire of personally beholding scenes, which
in

in relation only appeared to her so delightful and transporting.

Miss Howard, therefore, soon after she was of age, and had taken possession of her ample fortune, resolved to transport herself to some of those countries where she might enjoy the free and unconstrained use of her own religion, a privilege to which the meanest of mankind are justly entitled ; but as England was at that time engaged in a war with France and Spain, it was with much more difficulty she could take refuge in either, and especially in the last, whither she was most desirous of retiring, on account of the high character she always heard of that gallant nation, and of its steady zeal in support of the Catholic faith ; which last motive alone was more than sufficient to engage all her regard and affection.

From this dilemma, however, she was happily relieved by the interposition of the
Father

Father Confessor, who at that time attended her. Father Preston, originally a native of the cold climate of North Britain, was however a morose, a gloomy, and a fiery bigot in the cause he had espoused; the little education he had received he got in the English College at Lisbon: and when Miss Howard came to consult him, with a view of taking his directions relative to her future intentions, he immediately saw the proper use he was to make of an incident he had it in his power to turn so much to his own advantage; but pretended to the young Lady that, in a matter of such consequence, he could not take upon him to give her his opinion, without previous meditation, and imploring the Divine assistance.

Accordingly, next morning, he told her, he considered it as a lucky circumstance, that she was by the war prevented from going to Spain, as she intended, when the
door

door was now open to such an elegant retreat, as the Court and City of Lisbon afforded; that far from wishing to derogate from the advantageous opinion she had justly formed of the Spanish nation, he was nevertheless compelled by the force of truth to inform her, that their neighbours the Portuguese yielded to them in nothing great or commendable: that their uncommon prowess was evinced to the world, by their first conquering their own country from the Moors; and then defending it repeatedly from the inroads and insolence of the Spaniards, at all times so much their superiors in numbers; that their feats in subduing the richest countries in Asia, and in planting the Holy Standard of the Cross in such remote and wide extended regions, had never yet been equalled by any nation of antient or modern times; and that he himself would bear witness the present race was, in merit and virtue, by no means in-

ferior to their ancestors, and particularly if her object was, as he believed, to behold the splendour of the purest and most divine of all religions, and to participate in the sacred mysteries administered with the utmost grandeur ; in such a case, even though she had the offer of every fine city in Europe, he assured her, that Lisbon was the only one to which he could in conscience advise her to direct her choice.

Arguments of a less weighty nature, from such a character, would have been more than sufficient to determine Miss Howard ; and therefore, preparing herself with all convenient speed, and after lodging her money at a Banker's in such a manner as to be able to draw for any part, or the whole of it from wherever she should chuse to reside, she set out for Falmouth with her Confessor and other proper attendants, and arrived at Lisbon after a fortnight's passage, the most of it tempestuous weather. She

was

was there very cordially received by all the persons to whom she brought recommendatory letters, and by them was introduced to most of the principal people of the city, natives as well as foreigners; and, as soon as she was settled in a proper habitation by the care of the good Father Preston, was respectfully visited by many persons of condition and almost every body of the British Factory.

But now it was Doctor Preston's turn to play his part, and execute the plan he had meditated in London. As soon as possible he waited on his old Patroness the Marchioness of Pancorvo, who many years before had got him conveyed clandestinely, when a boy, from on board a Scotch trading vessel in the river, had educated him solely at her own expence, and, in due time, had him put in Priest's orders, and after being properly instructed in Lisbon, had him sent back as a Missionary to his own country,

where, by the disposal of his Superiors, he became known in the N——k family, and was judged a proper person to attend Miss Howard.—After great expressions of joy at meeting again, he proceeded to inform the Marchioness, that Providence, ever watchful over its faithful servants, had now furnished him with an opportunity of expressing his sense of the many obligations he owed her, provided she was disposed to agree to the proposal he had to make to her.—He then entered into a detail of Miss Howard's history, of her own turn and disposition, and of her fortune, which was solely at her own disposal, and concluded, by expressing how beneficial he thought it would be to her family if a match were concluded between this young Lady and the young Viscount her eldest son, who was much about her own age.

The Marchioness of Pancorvo quickly saw the prodigious advantage such a match would

would bring to her family, and earnestly and sincerely thanked the reverend Father for such a hint ; to improve which she requested the further continuance of his assistance, till the marriage should be effectuated, enforcing her request by promising to recommend him and his interests warmly to the reigning Queen and to her eldest daughter, with whom he well knew she was a particular favourite, and who was the immediate successor to the throne. The Marchioness lost no time in coming to pay her respects to Miss Howard, among several other Ladies of rank, who did her the same honor ; and, by the gentle Father's insinuation, the Marchioness was among the first to whom that young Lady returned the visit ; and on that occasion was received with extraordinary marks of attention and every display of magnificence, which family pride could suggest, stimulated as it was by the hopes of obtaining such an ad-

dition of fortune to an estate so much encumbered, and to a family so much in want. The Marchioness entreated there might be no more ceremony used between them; she led Miss Howard through almost every apartment of her extensive palace, shewed her her wardrobe and jewels, most of which had been borrowed for the occasion, and ushered her into a beautiful and spacious family chapel, where they both breathed out an ejaculatory prayer, and offered to do herself the honour of presenting her to the Queen and to the Princess of the Brazils whenever she pleased. So that, though Miss Howard had been perfectly well received wherever she visited, yet she acknowledged she had been no where attended with such singular marks of respect and affection, and seemed very desirous of cultivating an intimate acquaintance with the Marchioness of Pancorvo.

Soon

Soon after this period Miss Howard was presented in form to the Royal family. The Princess of the Brazils seemed particularly fond of her, and assured her, she thought herself much obliged to the Marchioness for procuring her the pleasure of her acquaintance, which she wished might be of long continuance. Briefly, through the assiduity of the Marchioness and the address of Father Preston, the way was soon paved for a match between Miss Howard and the Viscount of Baldiorra, the Marchioness's eldest Son, the completest booby imaginable, who consented to it purely because his mother desired him to do so. By the marriage articles it was stipulated, that the Viscount should receive the interest of the Lady's fortune, but that the capital should be settled on herself alone, and afterwards descend to and be equally divided among all the female Issue of the marriage, whereof the only person

now alive is the young Lady mentioned at the beginning of this epistle, whom her mother had sent to England for her education, and who is now soon expected again at Lisbon.

The above is the substance of the Frenchman's information; the truth of which, however romantic it may appear to you, I shall be able to verify on our arrival in Lisbon, as well as I hope to do by the intimacy I am getting into with Lord Freeman himself. I have insensibly drawn this to a great length, and the Estaffete is just leaving this for Lisbon.

L E T.

L E T T E R IV.

Beja, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE subject matter for correspondence increases upon me so much faster than I expected, that, though my last was a long epistle, I know not but it may be exceeded by the present. So different does the same country appear to travellers of different dispositions, that, while one proceeds through it without finding any thing to deserve even a note, another shall find ample field for remarks and lucubration, as is my case at present; and I am now set down in a bad Inn, by the light of an oil lamp, to give you an account of our
adven-

adventures, while my companions are fast in the arms of Morpheus, for whom I yet feel no manner of propensity.

Lord Freeman, wishing to visit every thing as a Philosopher, who can give a rational account of what he sees, first sent an old pedantic-looking Preceptor he had with him, and some other useless servants, from Faro direct to Lisbon, to wait his arrival there, and provided himself with mules, in some kitchen furniture, a Cook, and other necessaries for the journey, as he resolved to travel on, or to stop, when and where it should strike his fancy; and thus accoutred we set out for Tavira, accompanied by Colonel Bagot, after dining with the British Consul at Faro, and travelled through a beautiful flat country, consisting mostly of enclosed corn fields covered with almond trees, interspersed with the St. John's bread tree, the pomegranate, the fig and the olive tree, with the ocean on our right,

right, and the Serra de Caldeirão at some distance on our left; about an hour after sun-set, we arrived at Tavira, the Balsa of former times, and on entering the town were met by the Fraternity of the Rosary, who were parading the streets, and singing the Terço*, preceded by an Image of the Virgin, accompanied by wax tapers, and followed by a crowd of people in large brown cloaks; we alighted and did our obeisance to the Idol of the day, while

* A third part of the Rosary, or Psalter, or Crown of the Virgin Mary; the complete Rosary consists of 15 Pater Nosters, and 150 Ave Marias, ten of the last to each of the first, so that the whole Rosary contains 15 parts or mysteries, concerning Jesus Christ or the Virgin Mary; these are again divided into three parts or terços; the first five are called the joyful mysteries, the second five are called the dolorous mysteries, and the last are called the glorious mysteries: In singing or repeating often, all, or a part of this Crown of the Virgin, in hearing Mass, which is always said in a language the people do not understand, and in observing the fasts and festivals of the Church, consists the most essential religious duty of a Portuguese or Spanish Catholic.

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the Procession passed, and then accompanied Colonel Bagot, whose duty it was, as a military man, to wait upon the Viceroy or Governor of the Province, whose palace stood on a rising ground, immediately above the town.

In about three quarters of an hour after we were announced, we were ushered into an apartment where his supercilious Excellency the Armador Mor*, seated under a canopy in a chair of state, with some stools or tabourets before him, beckoned to us (after making him our bows) to be seated—an honor conferred on us in consideration of being foreigners, which the natives would not be indulged with.

After the first compliments, and some foolish questions, which his Excellency put

* An honorary employment of the Court, like that of Master of the Horse, Gentleman Usher, &c. It is the Nobleman, who, when the King is hunting, presents him the Piece, ready loaded and cocked, to shoot the Game.

to us, we were very happy to take our leaves of him and adjourn to supper, which together with clean beds, Colonel Bagot had provided for us at a friend's house. During supper, the conversation turned upon the Viceroy and his situation there: Bagot informed us that he was a relation of the late Minister the Marquis of Pombal; that he had been sent by him there, on purpose to get a subsistence he could find no where else, for that his estate was in the hands of creditors, and he had no other visible means of supporting his state of Viceroy than the miserable appointments of a Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry. Lord Freeman then enquired how he could support all the parade of attendants we had seen about his house? Bagot answered his Lordship, by saying, he supposed he had heard how, in some parts of Africa, the inhabitants worship the Devil, and make him presents, not that they expect any benefits from

from him, but purely to ingratiate themselves with him, so far as to prevent him from doing them a mischief. In like manner, said he, every person of any authority in this province, civil, military, or ecclesiastic, who regards his own preservation, and more particularly, whoever wishes for any favour from the Viceroy, is under the necessity of plying him with presents and donations, to secure his favour, and his good report of them to the Minister; and it is the multiplicity of these bribes which constitutes a real income, and supports him in his grandeur: though, since the late King's death, we have been looking for some new favourite to be sent in his place.

Lord Freeman observed, that from what he had seen, the Governor appeared to be shy, distant, and supercilious. Mr. Bagot assured him, that from the universal want of education in the country, the very best of them were from necessity compelled to
be

be so ; for were people in power (said he) to admit the generality of their countrymen to that sort of familiarity, which every Gentleman almost any where else has a right to expect from another, they would quickly lose the authority and respect due to their station ; and it is natural for a Portuguese, when once treated only with common attention, immediately to presume upon it, and he knows not where to stop : so that no man in authority here can treat with his countrymen otherwise than by constantly holding out the rod of power and authority in sight, so as to remind them of their distance. And with regard to their intercourse with foreign Gentlemen or Officers, they happen to fall in company with, it behoves them to be extremely on the reserve, at least, till they become acquainted with the disposition and qualities of the persons they deal with, because, conscious of their own total ignorance in almost

most every thing to be spoken of, they are sensible a very little conversation would discover it, and insure to them the contempt they deserve; so that the only method of supporting the appearance of a character is to have as little connexion with foreigners as possible: for the truth of this I will most willingly refer myself (said Bagot) to your Lordship's own experience, after you are better acquainted with the country. Here however I remarked to him, that, by the conversation in some companies, where we were present at Faro, the Viceroy was esteemed a man of learning. The Colonel assured me that he was reckoned in that country, and especially for a Nobleman, a prodigy of learning—said, that he was looked up to by the Bishop, the Dignitaries of the Church, and by all the learned Fryars in the Algarve, as a person of the first erudition; and as such they are constantly puffing him off in fulsome panegyrics,

panegyrics, to himself and to every body else who they may reasonably expect will report to him what they say. But examine his Library, Gentlemen, (said Bagot) and if you find above three military books in his collection, or any other worth opening—I beg pardon—except the Bible, of which he shewed me a copy in English, a language he does not understand.

On Mr. Bagot's mentioning the Bible, — the young Priest expressed a great desire of reading it, saying it was a book he had — never yet seen! Lord Freeman stared at the young fellow, and then turning to Colonel Bagot, begged of him to inform him then of what books the Viceroy's Library consisted? The Colonel said, it would be no easy task for him to recapitulate its contents; but that he had seen there a

great many volumes of old Spanish Plays, Tales, Romances, and Sacramental Acts without number; the Lives of a vast number of Saints, antient and modern, male

*The
Library
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and female; above a hundred volumes in folio of the *Acta Sanctorum* alone, in Latin; the *Mystical City of God*, or the *Life of the Virgin Mary*, by Mary of Agreda; the *Life and Works of Saint Theresa de Jesus*, with the *History of the Order of the Carmelites*, in fifty large volumes; the *History of the Foundation of the Carthusians*, by St. Bruno: and in general of all the other religious institutions; among which that of the Jesuits — makes a great figure: and notwithstanding his patron the Marquis of Pombal's detestation of that Order, in the Viceroy's Library were to be found the *Annals of Baronius*, the *Works of Bellarmine*, of Henry Henriques, of Francis of Toledo, of John de Salas, of Francis Soares, of Gregory of Valentia, of the chaste Thomas Sanchez, of Paul Layman, of Ferdinand de Castro Palaô, of Anthony de Escòbar, of Simon de Lessau, of Thomas Tambourin, of John de Lugo, of Mathew de Moya,

John

John de Cardenas; of Fathers Cabrespin, Daniel, Busembaum, la Croix, Richard Archdeacon, of Francis Xavier Fegelli, of Joseph Gravina—Here Lord Freeman thanked the Colonel for his information, saying, he could now form some idea of such a collection; after which we all retired to rest.

The next morning we were up betimes, and, after drinking a dish of chocolate, set forward for Castro-Marin, four leagues distant, and whither Colonel Bagot had despatched a note the evening before to Mr. Gaynor, his Captain of Grenadiers, on detachment there, advising him we would breakfast with him the next forenoon. On the road Lord Freeman continued to admire the fine country, with the distant hills on our left, which protected the almond and the orange trees from the Northern blast; but could not help lamenting to see such a broad and extensive morass along

the sea-shore on our right, lying totally uncultivated, and which with a very few drains cut across it, might be converted into the richest soil imaginable.

About ten o'clock we arrived at Captain Gaynor's quarters, where we found breakfast ready, which was very acceptable after riding about fifteen English miles upon very indifferent cattle. You must know Gaynor is a countryman of our own; and Lord Freeman declared he found verified in his person, and in the hospitable manner after which he received us, every thing advantageous and commendable for which his countrymen are so remarkable wherever they are to be met with. After breakfast I proposed walking to the new town of St. Antonio de Arenilha, we had heard so much of at Faro, and which Lord Freeman was very desirous to see; but Gaynor could not be brought to consent that we should quit his quarters, without first promising

misgiving him our company again at dinner, which we did.

The new town of St. Antonio is beautifully situated, upon the banks of the noble river of the Guadiana, very nearly opposite to the city of Ayamonte, in the Spanish Estremadura, and half a league below the town of Castro-Marin, and about as far within the bar at the mouth of the river, with plenty of deep water and room for shipping; an extensive and commodious quay, with a spacious landing-place, and stairs before the new Custom-house, which is a handsome building. The houses of the town are all built regularly uniform on one plan, with a neatness to be seen (as I am informed) no where else in Portugal, Lisbon only excepted: the streets are well paved, built by the line, and cross each other at right angles, dividing the town into equal quarters. Two large Inns are built for the accommodation of travellers,

and a neat square occupies the centre of the town. On one side of this square there is a new church, and on the opposite side stand the Town-house and other neat buildings ; and in the centre a large marble fountain, which is constantly supplied by a Jet d'eau, throwing up the water to a considerable height, and conveying the idea of coolness and refreshment, particularly agreeable in this sultry climate.

Such was this new creation of the late Minister, which by its appearance at a distance raised our curiosity ; but on coming into it there was not a living soul to be seen in the streets, nor even in the town, if we except the *Juiz de fora** and a Serjeant's guard daily relieved from Castro-Marin.

Lord Freeman praised the situation ; but begged to know for what purpose it was

* The chief Civil Magistrate of all the Cities and Towns of Portugal, excepting Lisbon and Oporto.

built,

built, and where the inhabitants were? Colonel Bagot said, it was a standing monument of the Marquis of Pombal's pertinacious obstinacy and vanity together: that he had built it to encourage the pilchard fishery, which, if properly attended to, might be turned to very great account upon this coast. At the same time his vanity prompted him to raise a new town in sight of his rivals and neighbours, without considering how improper the situation was for the real purpose it was intended to answer. On the road this morning (said Bagot) I made you remark a high ground covered with fishermen's huts, which, in the manner of a small head, runs out into the sea, near two leagues West from the mouth of this river. At this place, called Monte-Gordo, the shore consists of a length of bold beach, covered with pebbles, and exceedingly proper for the fishermen's drawing their pilchard nets on shore, where

they immediately cured the pilchards and prepared them for exportation ; and there undoubtedly was the true place for this town : but the old Marquis's pride, and dislike of the Castilians, were gratified by raising a fine looking new town opposite to one of theirs, and which gave him the command of the river and its trade. This was the first idea which misled him, and he was unluckily confirmed in it by the crowd of sycophants and flatterers about him, whose only study it was to sooth his vanity, the better to obtain their own purposes, till he had gone too far to recede ; yet some hints and murmurs, concerning the impropriety of the present situation, made their way to him ; and he ordered a worthy old Dezembargador, or Judge, to go to the two places, and, after carefully examining both, report to him, according to his conscience and the reality of his sentiments, which of the two situations he judged

judged the properest for the purposes of the pilchard fishery.

The conscientious Judge, accordingly, in his report gave it entirely against the site where the town now stands ; adducing, besides many unanswerable arguments, the absurdity and ruin of being obliged to put the pilchard, which is a delicate fish, again into the boats, after the nets are drawn on shore and emptied at Monte-Gordo, as they necessarily must be ; the bringing them about into the River and up to the new town, to be there handled again and taken on shore to be cured ; by which means the pilchards were entirely converted into a jelly, and lost the best part of their substance and value—all which would have been avoided by building the town at Monte-Gordo. The impartial Judge, for this report, was seized and clapped into a dungeon. The building of the town went on with vivacity, not a murmur being afterwards

terwards heard against it; the fishermen at Monte-Gordo were ordered to leave their huts, with their families and boats, to inhabit the new town. They obeyed the first part of the precept; but, instead of coming to the place to which they were directed, they passed to a man over to Spain! where they remained till the late King's death, and then returned quietly to their old habitations.

Here Lord Freeman very properly defcanted upon that ruinous spirit of despotism, of which he saw such evident and glaring effects. He farther remarked, that it was a project ruinous to the state, on which there had been a vast expenditure of the King's money, to no sort of purpose. —Colonel Bagot begged leave to set him right on that point, assuring him it had not cost the King a farthing; and herein (said he) is another instance of the ruinous consequences of uncontrouled authority lodged
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in the hands of a single Despot; for the Minister, through his Viceroy here, having obtained a circumstantial account of every man of property in the whole province, directed the same Viceroy to call each of them into his presence, and to inform him that his Majesty had formed the design of building a new town, with a view of encouraging the trade and fisheries on the coast of Algarve, and would esteem it highly if he contributed for that purpose, by building such a house or houses as suited his circumstances. An insinuation of this sort from the King being here universally considered as a command, and the Viceroy having the different terms of agreement ready drawn out for signing, each person was thus brought in to sign a deed or bond, by which he obliged himself, within a stipulated time, to raise a building of such a description upon the spot assigned him; and the town thus rose suddenly; though

though it would never have answered the Minister's intention, had he continued in the government; and having been a scheme of his, without respect to any other consideration, is now totally abandoned, and the different people's money thrown away. It is now very late, and I must break off for the present, though I have enough to fill another letter concerning the people we met in Algarve. Adieu.

LET.

LETTER V.

Beja, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER,

MY last, if I mistake not, has furnished you with an irrefragable proof, that it is a period of peculiar danger to the well-being of any state, when the whole acting and executive power is exclusively lodged in the hands of a single man, however great and extensive his talents may be: and the Marquis of Pombal's most servile flatterers will certainly never presume to assert, that he was that universal genius in the art of government he was willing to have passed for; and it is unquestionably a solecism in government, and the most dangerous of all precedents,

precedents, that in a community professedly formed and regulated by established laws, any individual should arise under the character of Prime Minister, or any other whatever, and substitute in their place any other temporary rule or order, which shall best suit his own private caprice, or answer a particular purpose; yet this I find always has been, and still continues to be the case in the government of this country. This letter will present you with something no less extraordinary of another kind, the knowledge of which, as you will see, came incidentally in our way.

We returned to Castro-Marin both hungry and fatigued with the heat, after walking so much, and found a very comfortable dinner provided for us by Captain Gaynor; after which, while the cheerful glass of Spanish wine was circulating, the Captain took a memorial out of his pocket and presented it to his Colonel, telling him
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the Major of the Regiment had remitted it to him, requesting him to deliver it, accompanied with all his interest, to the end that the Colonel might give it all the protection in his power, towards obtaining what was therein requested, though to be sure (added Captain Gaynor) the Major knows very well, and you know too, Colonel, that I would sooner be hanged, than interest myself in such a foolish piece of business.

Mr. Bagot just cast his eye over the memorial, and then returning it to the Captain, told him he might write a congratulatory letter to the Major, for that the Viceroy had informed him at Tavira, he had just received her Majesty's commands to have the petitioner entered as *aggregate Major**

* The same as in France, any Officer, *à la Suite d'un Regiment*: It is an Officer or Officers of any rank, appointed to, and paid in a Regiment, taking their tour of general duty in the same, but not attached to any particular Company.

upon

upon the Register-book of the Regiment, and to receive his appointments in the same accordingly. Lord Freeman, who already felt himself strongly prejudiced in Gaynor's favour, by the undefining simplicity and frankness of his character and behaviour, was a little surprised, when he saw him redden up on the information his Colonel gave him, his eyes sparkled with rage, and he began to swear, with all that hearty good will and unreservedness so remarkable in many of his countrymen, uttering a thousand imprecations on the person who had been promoted before him; and on the knaves and idiots who had advised her Majesty to commit such an absurdity: Colonel Bagot's endeavours to assuage the Captain's rage had no effect, and raised our curiosity the more to know the cause of it. The Captain swore he would go that moment and write a letter of abuse to the Secretary of War, and at the same time resign

sign his commission, for that none (said he) but the most contemptible of wretches could think of remaining in such a despicable service. On saying this, he rose and left us, begging the young Priest, John Carlos, who seemed quite astonished at his behaviour, to come and draw up a letter for him; and thanked God he had not the art of writing in such a pitiful language.

As soon as Gaynor retired, Lord Freeman was desirous to know the cause of that sudden disgust he had expressed upon the information he had received; but Mr. Bagot seeming not much disposed to satisfy his curiosity, told him it was a long detail, many of the circumstances of which might indeed be new to his Lordship, yet others would appear both incredible and ridiculous; and as some of them would serve also to represent their present situation in that service in a disagreeable, and even a humiliating light, (although by no fault of theirs) he hoped his Lordship would have the com-

plaisance to dispense with his entering into it.

Lord Freeman very politely replied, that he was the farthest from wishing to impose any disagreeable task on Colonel Bagot, that his determination to take a tour through this country did not proceed from the expectation of meeting with any productions either of nature or art equal to what he had already seen in many others, but rather from the desire of seeing the political strength and situation of Portugal, with respect to its jealous and powerful neighbour, and particularly, as a military man, to inform himself of the state of the army, which he had been taught to believe was upon a respectable footing ever since it had been regulated by the late Count la Lippe, of whom he had heard so much as a great military genius—That he hoped Mr. Bagot would do him the justice to believe, he always made it an essential point to distinguish whether disagreeable circumstances in
any

any person's situation had been produced by misconduct in that person, or by such accidents as he could neither foresee, nor prevent ; that as, in the first case, he could not help imputing blame where due, so the second never failed producing in him every sentiment of condolence, sympathy and friendship ; more particularly, when he saw a brother officer in such a situation : that his expectation of gaining information in the very line he chiefly wished for it, had been already very much exceeded by that which in so short a space of time the Colonel had already favoured him with, in regard to the state of that part of the country they were then in, and for which he returned him his sincere and hearty thanks, confessing, frankly, at the same time, that the singular satisfaction he received from the Colonel's conversation on other subjects, had only the more whetted his desire of learning something authentic also concerning the present state of the army and of

Captain Gaynor's situation, which he naturally judged to be nearly connected with it.

To decline complying with Lord Freeman's request, after such a declaration, would have been next to impossible, had Colonel Bagot been less disposed to indulge him than he really was; he therefore assured his Lordship, that he was happy in being able to give him every information in his power, and proceeded as follows:

“ This poor fellow, Gaynor, is the worthiest creature alive, and so full of uprightness and honesty, that these virtues, which seem inherent in him, in such a manner that he cannot divest himself of them for a moment, have literally been his ruin in this service: he is as intrepid as Hector, at the same time that he is as meek and tractable as a lamb; but unfortunately, he cannot put up with the smallest appearance of dissingenuity or dissimulation, and is entirely inca-

incapable of that share of prudence in dealing with people of different manners and nations, which is perfectly compatible with the character of a man of probity and honor every where; he revolts at the smallest departure from the rules of propriety and truth, in such a manner that he cannot help by some exterior act or gesture expressing his displeasure and disgust; and, as he hardly meets in this country with any thing but duplicity and deceit, it is no wonder the natives here should look upon him as a rude, surly, dissatisfied being; and even those of the best rank who are acquainted with him, not distinguishing his real character, consider him as an English savage, totally void of manners and good breeding: add to this, that there are few of the Portuguese Officers of any consequence, especially among the Nobility, with whom Gaynor is acquainted, whom he has not found occasion to invite to private meet-

ings similar to those which happen sometimes in the Phoenix Park, near Dublin, without having met with one, who chose to accept of his appointments. Thus he is either feared or disliked by all of them; and the repeated unfavourable reports of him whispered at Court, have too effectually hurt him in the opinion of the present Queen, and of her weak and foolish Ministers.

“ Gaynor was a pretty old soldier in 1762, and had served with credit in Germany and America, but came here only as Ensign in one of two new raised Irish Regiments, which were sent here from England, at the above-mentioned period; and when our General, the Count la Lippe, at the conclusion of that war, formed the army here by his new regulations, Gaynor, rather than go home to starve on half-pay, accepted of a Lieutenancy in the same Regiment, to which I was then appointed Major; and
notwith-

notwithstanding his having been strongly recommended to the Minister by Count la Lippe when he left this country, Gaynor languished for several years after in the rank of a subaltern, the Minister, not caring, of his own proper motion, to promote a man become so obnoxious to a great part of the young Nobility, and hinting as much to me in a conversation I had with him in 1772, when he appointed me to the Regiment I now command. I, on that occasion, begged to know if my proposing Gaynor for my Captain of Grenadiers would be agreeable to him? to which he answered, he would be very happy to see that active man promoted, and which by my intervention was then accordingly done; and without such an incident, would probably never have happened. I soon after proposed him for Aggregate Major to my Regiment, and have continued doing so to the present Ministry, and the Secretary of

War has actually promised me, and to Gaynor himself, in the Queen's name, that he should have that commission, which however I never expected for him; and he is now also undeceived, by seeing that other person promoted before him." Lord Freeman desired to know who was the other person whose promotion had given the Captain so much offence? Bagot replied, "This, my Lord, is what will place us in a ludicrous and contemptible light; but, Sir, it is the misfortune of our situation, not our fault. Knowing it to be a part of my duty, I make the Regiment I command here, attend on the religious ordinances established in this country, with the same exactness I should make them go to church in England, had I the honor of commanding English soldiers there. I am, perhaps, even more scrupulously punctual in this matter, than many of their own Colonels are, on purpose to antici-

anticipate every fuspicion they may entertain, of any difference in my own private opinion having the smallest influence on my duty as an officer in their service : for this reason, I readily coincided with a practice universally established in all the Regiments of this service, though I look upon it as in the last degree ridiculous. You are too well acquainted, my Lord, with Catholic countries, not to know that there is not a kingdom, a province, a town, a parish, nor even an individual, especially in Spain and this country, who has not each his tutelar Saint, Angel, or Guardian, to whom he recommends himself and his concerns, very much resembling, and most probably copied from the Lares and Dii penates of the antient Romans. Accordingly, there is not a Regiment here which has not long ago put itself under the protection of some particular Saint, as their devotion or attachments dictate to them :
and

and when this Regiment I now command was first formed, about a hundred years ago, it took St. Anthony of Lisbon for its patron and protector, who, soon after, received a Captain's commission in the same, and has received the appointments regularly ever since! which are employed, as well as two-pence per month, paid by every individual of the Regiment, in saying a stated number of Masses for the souls of all those of it who die—in celebrating the festival of the Saint—in supporting the Chaplains—adorning the Chapel, and defraying other incidental charges, under the inspection of an officer the Regiment appoints for that purpose—and this post of Superintendent for St. Anthony, the Major of our Regiment, who is a Nobleman (fidalgo) and a blockhead, has occupied with great zeal and devotion for some years past, and has never since ceased teasing the Court with memorials and certificates

cates of services in favour of St. Anthony, that he might be promoted to the rank of Aggregate Major in the Regiment. The late Minister always laughed heartily at such memorials, and threw them among his waste paper, declaring, it was only another method of robbing the King of so much more money per month, to be employed in supporting idle Priests, processions and superstitions. But, we have now seen that our pious Queen and her Ministers have taken the affair in a serious light, and have promoted St. Anthony for the encouragement of superstition, and most likely for the discouragement of poor Gaynor: at least, this *trait* resembles so many others which I know to have been practised, on purpose to disgust British Officers, since the Queen's accession, that I am exceedingly inclined to put it down to the same account."—Lord Freeman requested to know, what was the nature of the services St. Anthony

Anthony had performed in the Regiment, on the merits whereof any argument for his farther promotion could be founded?

Colonel Bagot took from his pocket a bundle of papers folded together, which, when he had untied and spread out, consisted of above fifty certificates, signed by different persons of the Regiment. These certificates were stitched together, like a pamphlet in folio, and were stuffed with the dullest impertinencies of miracles which St. Anthony had performed at the requests of these persons—He had restored a very favourite lap-dog to the Major's Lady, which had been stolen from her, and which she had despaired of ever seeing again, till her Father Director advised her to importune St. Anthony, which she had not done for above two days, when the dog was brought back to her! He also saved a poor foldier, who called upon him when drowning, as he passed a deep river, by miracu-
lously

lously throwing a rope in his way ! Another had recovered from the small-pox, by thinking on St. Anthony, and this after the rattle was in his throat, and he had been given over by the Surgeon-Major of the Regiment ! In short, another certificate related, that a drummer of the Regiment, named John, or Joaô Ivo Alegre, being in bed with his wife, and their child sleeping between them, when he waked in the morning found a large snake (which had crept in under the door of their hut) in bed with them, sucking his wife's breast, while she was fast asleep, with its tail in the mouth of the child, who was sucking it very contentedly : at sight of such an extraordinary appearance, the drummer immediately invoked St. Anthony, who inspired him with presence of mind and courage, sufficient to seize at once the head and tail of the serpent, by this time overloaded with the quantity of milk he had sucked ; and setting

ting a foot upon each, secured him from doing them any mischief, till with his hanger, which lay at his bed's head, he cut off the animal's head, and mangled it so as to prevent it from hurting them. Thus the man, wife and child had a miraculous escape!

Amidst such a multifarious collection of crude absurdities, Mr. Bagot told Lord Freeman he would not take up any more of his time, than by reading to him the Major's own certificate, which served as a crown and confirmation to all the others, and to establish St. Anthony's character as a man of honor and a good soldier; and, as such, recommending him to her Majesty, as a person every way deserving her Royal attention, in what regards his promotion in the army. This certificate was drawn out in a fine hand, and sealed at bottom with an enormous large seal of the Major's arms. For your information, I subjoin here a translation

translation of the certificate Colonel Bagot read to us, which I obtained as a piece too precious to be lost, or overlooked. It is as near as the idioms of the two languages will permit, which in such formal deeds and writings are considerably different; but in its manner and form exactly resembles all those passed in this country, which, as well as in Spain, are numberless, no manner of publick business, lawfuits, &c. &c. being carried on without them, as those who are at all acquainted with the language and customs of Portugal can readily attest. The translation runs as follows :

“ Don Hercules Antonio Carlos Luiz
 “ Joseph Maria de Albuquerque e Araujo
 “ de Magalhaens Homem, Nobleman of
 “ her Majesty’s Household, Knight of the
 “ sacred Order of St. John of Jerusalem,
 “ and of the most illustrious military Order
 “ of Christ, Lord of the Districts and Towns
 “ of Moncarapacho and Terragudo, here-
 “ ditary

“ ditary Alcaide Mor of the City of Faro,
“ and Major of the Regiment of Infantry
“ of the City of Lagos, in this Kingdom of
“ Algarve, for her Most Faithful Majesty,
“ whom God long preserve, &c. &c. &c.

“ I attest and certify, to all who shall see
“ these presents, written out by my com-
“ mand, and signed at the bottom with my
“ sign manual, with the broad seal of my
“ Arms, close by my said signature and a
“ little to the left of it, that the Lord St.
“ Anthony, otherwise the great St. Antho-
“ ny of Lisbon, (commonly and falsely
“ called of Padua) has been enlisted, and
“ had a place in this Regiment, ever since
“ the 24th of January, of the year of our
“ Lord Jesus Christ, 1668, as will appear
“ more particularly below: I farther attest,
“ that the fifty-nine within certificates,
“ numbered from unity up to the number
“ 59, and with the cypher of my name set
“ close by each number, do contain and
“ comprehend

“ comprehend a true and faithful relation
 “ of the miracles and other eminent services
 “ the said St. Anthony has, at different
 “ times, rendered to and performed in this
 “ Regiment, in consequence of his having
 “ a place in it, wherein, besides many other
 “ incontestible evidences, I am confirmed,
 “ by having conversed with many of the
 “ parties now alive, who received these ser-
 “ vices from the said Saint : That, there-
 “ fore, to doubt of the veracity of these mi-
 “ racles, is as heinous a crime against the
 “ Holy Ghost, as to doubt of any of the
 “ dogmas of our holy faith, or of the mi-
 “ racles of Christ himself, the evidences
 “ whereof are not so strong and convincing
 “ as those in the present instance before us,
 “ and by which our blessed Saviour’s own
 “ words are fulfilled, when he told his dis-
 “ ciples, that ‘ after me shall come those
 “ who shall do greater works than I have
 Vol. I. G “ done.”

“ done, which prophecy clearly pointed to
“ our great St. Anthony.

“ I do farther certify, upon my word of
“ honor, as a Nobleman, a Knight, and a
“ Catholic Christian, (as with God's grace I
“ am) what hereunder follows:

“ That having read over and perused at-
“ tentively all the papers, note-books, and
“ registers of our Regiment, ever since its
“ first formation, and having carefully co-
“ pied out of the said papers every thing re-
“ lating to the above-named St. Anthony,
“ it is *de verbo ad verbum* what follows here:
“ for the truth of which I refer to the said
“ books and papers, lodged in the Archives
“ of our Regiment.

/ “ That on the 24th of January, 1688, by
“ order of his Majesty Don Pedro the Se-
“ cond, (whom God has in glory) then
“ Prince Regent of the Kingdom of Portu-
“ gal, directed to the Viceroy of this King-
“ dom

“ dom of Algarve, was St. Anthony enlist-
 “ ed as a private soldier in this Regiment
 “ of Infantry, of Lagos, when it was first
 “ formed by command of the same Prince;
 “ and of such enlistment of St. Anthony
 “ there was a register formed, which now
 “ exists in the First Volume of the Register-
 “ book of the Regiment, fol. 143. ver. and
 “ wherein he gave for his Caution and
 “ Surety* the Queen of Angels, who be-

* The method of recruiting the army in Spain and Portugal, is totally different from what is practised in England: each of the provinces is divided into districts, and the Civil Magistrate of every district is obliged to furnish the number of recruits allotted him, whenever called upon by Government; and such recruits must be the sons of merchants, tradesmen, peasants, labourers, &c. &c. inhabitants of that district; and the father, brother, some relation, or other sufficient person, is made responsible for each recruit, that he shall behave well, and not desert his colours; and if he does, that person is obliged to find another man to serve in his place, for whom he must also be answerable. Thus, in the text, Saint Anthony gives the Virgin Mary for his Security, as being the most responsible person he could offer to answer for his good behaviour.

“ came answerable that he would not de-
“ sert his colours, but behave always like a
“ good soldier in the Regiment : And thus
“ did the Saint continue to serve and do
“ duty as a Private in the Regiment, till
“ September the 12th, 1683, on which day
“ the same Prince Regent became King of
“ Portugal, by the decease of his brother
“ Don Affonço the Sixth ; and on the same
“ day his Majesty promoted St. Anthony to
- “ the rank of Captain in the Regiment, for
“ having, a short time before, valiantly put
- “ himself at the head of a detachment of
“ the Regiment, which was marching from
“ Jurumenha to the garrison of Olivença,
“ both in the province of the Alentejo, and
- “ beat off a strong body of Castillians, four
“ times the number of said detachment,
“ which body had been set in ambush for
“ them, with the intention of carrying
“ them all prisoners to Badajox, the enemy
“ having,

“ having, by their spies, obtained informa-
 “ tion of their march.

“ I do farther certify, that in all the
 “ above papers and registers, there is not
 “ any note of St. Anthony, of bad beha-
 “ viour or irregularity, committed by him,
 “ nor of his having ever been flogged, im-
 “ prisoned, or any way punished by his
 “ Officers, while Private in the Regiment :
 “ That, during the whole time he has been
 “ a Captain, now near a hundred years, he
 “ has constantly done his duty with the
 “ greatest alacrity, at the head of his Com-
 “ pany, upon all occasions, in peace and
 “ war, and as such has been seen by his
 “ soldiers, times without number, as they
 “ are all ready to testify ; and in every
 “ other respect he has always behaved like
 “ a Gentleman and an Officer : and on all
 “ the above-mentioned accounts, I hold
 “ him most worthy and deserving of the
 “ rank of Aggregate Major to our Regiment,

“and of every other honour, grace or fa-
“vour, her Majesty shall be graciously
“pleased to bestow upon him. In testimo-
“ny whereof, I have hereto signed my
“name, this 25th day of March, of the
“year of our Lord Jesus Christ, 1777.

(L. S.) “MAGALHAENS HOMEM.”

You will be apt to imagine the above is only caricature ; but I must request you to give me credit when I assure you, I have mentioned nothing but literal and sober matter of fact ; neither is any business, either here or in Spain, treated with more gravity and seriousness ; nor is it at all surprising, if they act, as I have every reason to believe they do, *de bonne foi*. The opinion so prevalent in England, and which is supported by many grave polemic authors of a certain way of thinking, (who before they write ought in common prudence to be better informed) is evidently false ; I mean,

mean, when they assert, that the Clergy in Catholic countries know better things, and keep the people in ignorance, only to have them the more in their power; at least I will answer for it, that the greatest part of the Clergy in Spain and here, are upright in their intentions, and think they are discharging the duties of their office, and, if mistaken, are the first dupes in these countries; in which case, it is not surprising that they lead astray the people committed to their care.

But be that as it may; though I should rejoice to see the people here guided more by the dictates of Reason and Morality, yet my feelings are not so intimately interested in their concerns; but I confess they were severely hurt, as yours will also be, in the perusal of my next. The late behaviour of your Commander in Chief to Colonel Bagot, is in every respect without a shadow of excuse. My attachment to the glorious Con-

stitution of England, and my wishes for its continuance through a long succession of ages, are unfeigned and ardent; but I think that will be impossible, while your men in power continue to be actuated by principles so opposite to every idea of patriotism, justice and humanity, as you will find by my next epistle. Well may Bagot, whom I take to be a worthy and deserving Officer, exclaim with Hamlet in the Play,

Who would bear the whips and scorns of the times,
———The insolence of Office, and the spurns
Which patient Merit of the Unworthy takes?

Adieu. Yours always, &c. &c.

LET.

LETTER VI.

Evora, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER,

WE leave this place to-morrow; and though I have picked up matter here also for your entertainment, I must acquit myself of what I promised in my last, before I continue the account of our journey.

But I must previously inform you, that Colonel Bagot is one of those few unhappy English Officers, who has remained in the Portuguese service ever since the campaign of 1762 in this country, of which he now heartily repents; but being seduced by the whistling of a name, the prospect of high rank, and the flattering behaviour of the
Court

Court to him at the beginning, he had neglected to pursue in time his promotion in the service of his own country, till his proffers of service there were made too late for his re-admission, upon such terms as he could in decency accept : and by such unworthy and most injudicious refusals, I am informed Lord A—— has lost the services of some Officers of real experience.

Before Colonel Bagot had quite finished reading the Major's certificate, as mentioned in my last, Captain Gaynor came into the room, and told Bagot, that the Chief Magistrate of the place with some other persons were come to pay their respects to him and his company, and were in the next apartment. Poor Gaynor's passion was already subsided, and he looked dull and melancholy. We passed into the next room, where coffee and chocolate were presented, and after some uninteresting conversation and fulsome compliments, as usual,

al, had passed, the people from abroad retired; and Lord Freeman, as well as myself, was particularly desirous of renewing the conversation with Bagot and Gaynor, and of knowing why they did not endeavour to extricate themselves from a service now become so disagreeable to them; and, as they were on half-pay in England, to return to that of their own country, now that a French and American war required the attendance of Officers employed in foreign service. Accordingly, after we had walked abroad in the cool of the evening, and Lord Freeman had given directions about finding a boat to carry us up the river as far as Mertola next morning, and ordered our horses to be conducted by land, to wait for us there, we returned to Gaynor's quarters, when I took an opportunity of again introducing the conversation upon the same subject; and Lord Freeman said, he thought there would be little difficulty
in

in their being re-admitted into the service of their own country, if they were seriously to set about it. And though they would no doubt enter in lower ranks than those they held here, yet it was in every other respect preferable to the awkward and precarious situation they were in at present. Here Gaynor gave a broad and expressive stare at his Colonel, and Bagot fetching a deep sigh, addressed Lord Freeman as follows :

“ Being persuaded of your Lordship’s sincerity, and that you will make no use of the information I have given, or may give you, that will be detrimental to us, I shall make the less scruple in satisfying your curiosity, concerning my own and Captain Gaynor’s attempts to return to the service of our own country, without success.

“ Some months before the late King’s death, General Maclean, a Colonel in the British service, who commanded the troops
in.

in Lisbon, and who was well acquainted with the situation of this country, assured me, in a confidential conversation I had with him, that in a very short time after that event, there would hardly remain a British Officer in this service, who could by any means get out of it; and he himself was as active as possible in fulfilling his own prediction. In fact, the late King Joseph was scarce cold in his coffin, when it was evident the new adopted system was to run entirely counter to that introduced by the Marquis of Pombal, who was immediately dismissed: the Clergy exulted, and the power of the Church, which had been prudently repressed, resumed its domineering influence with redoubled vigour: the violent Churchmen, backed by an exhortatory Brief directed to the Queen, from his Holiness the present Pope, solicited and obtained the Royal Authority, again to persecute, and drag to the infernal dungeons of the
nauseous

nauseous Inquisition, the persons of harmless and inoffensive individuals; and particularly every base sinister method was put in practice, to disgust every British Officer in the service, and to render his situation disagreeable. I myself came in for my share of this mean and unworthy behaviour, which prudence laid me under the cruel necessity of putting up with at the time; and the hopes of soon getting out of their service, made me look forward to the moment when I should be able to tell them my mind, without disguise or reserve: I therefore applied for a few months leave of absence to go to England, as did also my friend Gaynor at the same time, who knows he was never much beloved by them, [here poor Gaynor could not help mumbling between his teeth, ‘a set of pitiful R——ls,’] and we readily obtained it. You must know, my Lord, it has always been an established rule in this wretched service, that,
when

when an Officer obtains leave of absence, he loses his appointments during that time; but, as a piece of indulgence to Foreign Officers, the late Minister generally ordered their appointments to be paid them on their application, either before they went, or after they returned; and as neither Gaynor nor myself could boast of purses strong enough to support a trip to London, and the expence of remaining some time there, we applied to the new Ministry for the same indulgence, and were answered, that her Majesty could not then order us our appointments, not knowing how long our absence might be made by accidents, but that we might apply for them when we returned.

“Upon the strength of this answer, we found friends enough in Lisbon to furnish us money for the journey; but on our return, experience convinced us of the studied meanness and malice of this Jesuitical answer,

answer, worthy indeed of the grovelling Jewish character of the Marquis of Angeja, whom his friend King Peter immediately employed to hold the purse-strings of the nation; but most disgraceful to the crowned head, in whose name it was given. His view was evidently this; that if, as he hoped, we did not return, he would save to the Treasury, the miserable pittance of money we would have carried along with us; and, if we did return, and apply for our appointments, he would then have a desirable opportunity of mortifying us by a flat refusal, as it actually happened.

“ We proceeded however to London, flattered with the soothing hopes of once more putting on a British uniform; and finding on our arrival, that some other Officers from Portugal had been already admitted, our expectations became the more sanguine, though conscious we were both unassisted by friends or interest of any kind; we
were

were however properly introduced and presented to Lord A——, by a General Officer to whom we were both well known. His Lordship seemed attentive, while I explained my situation to him—in hopes of interesting him the more in our favour, I first, and I now find foolishly, began by describing to him, the sad dilemma to which the British Officers in this service were reduced, by the unworthy behaviour of the Court: I then laid before him a state of my services in different parts of the world, during the last war, that I was then an old Lieutenant in the 33d Regiment; and I shewed him a Commission I had of the rank of Captain in the Army ever since 1761: I then told him, that, as I was still in a condition to serve for many years, I hoped he would not think me unreasonable in pretending to come in with the rank of a Field Officer; or, if that was impracticable, at least with that which I had in the

army so many years before. Captain Gaynor likewise explained his pretensions, and he desired us both to call in a few days on his Secretary Mr. M——, who was then standing at his elbow, and who would give us the King's definitive answer.

“ We accordingly attended the Secretary, as may be well supposed with a good deal of anxiety, mixed with hopes and fears, which alternately elated and depressed our spirits, and found him, like most other men in publick office, superciliously at his ease, insensible and callous to the feelings and distresses of others : without enquiring into any thing of the particular circumstances which had engaged us in the service of Portugal, he began with an exordium of abuse against the Nation in general, using many indecent epithets, which however too nearly suit their real character: he said, he was surprised how any Gentlemen of the smallest capacity or reflection, could be induced to throw away their time among
such

such a set of miscreants, and that it was enough to run over their history ever since their acclamation of King John the Fourth, to see that, as often as England had run into their assistance, and saved the despicable family of Bragança from destruction, so often had the English, and generally all Foreign Officers in their service, been rewarded by the Portuguese with insolence and bad usage; for that they were a nation so lost in every mean and unmanly vice, that they were incapable of putting on even the appearance of honesty or virtue—that we, in particular, were egregiously mistaken, if we imagined that any rank or high-sounding titles we had obtained among them would be of the smallest avail to us on the present occasion, of re-entering into the British service. Then addressing himself to me, he said, he had it in command from Lord A—— to acquaint me, that his Majesty having adopted the unal-

terable resolution of not admitting any Officers from half-pay into the service, whatever their former rank might have been, unless they came in again with only Subalterns rank, he was particularly sorry, on my account, that I could be admitted on no other ; and that, if I chose to accept of it, he would do every thing in his power to obtain for me the former rank I had in the service as soon after as possible. And turning to Gaynor, he told him very plainly, that there were such numberless applications for Ensigncies in the army at present, supported by interest on one hand, and money on the other, that Lord A—— could not take it upon him to give him any encouragement in his application, as he understood he was unassisted with either. I then asked Mr. M—— if we were to consider the present as Lord A——'s definitive answer? He immediately replied, that most certainly ; and that a thousand future applications

plications would produce no other. We then took our leave of Mr. M——, in such a condition, as may be easier felt than expressed; and, at parting, I took the liberty to tell him, that, had it been possible for me to have spoken with the King himself, I could not persuade myself he would have sent an Officer of character, and of so many years standing, from his presence with such an unjust and ungenerous answer.

“Next day I waited on the Portuguese Envoy, now in London, though utterly unknown to him, and having only heard a great character of him from several Officers who had known him in the army here. I laid my whole situation freely before him; and I must confess his friendship and generosity did not deceive my expectations: nay, I will say more, the character, the conduct and sentiments of that excellent person, seem in some shape sufficient to

compensate for the rooted and native baseness of a great number of his countrymen, he so little resembles. Where he imbibed those sentiments I will not pretend to say. There are some very respectable characters produced in every country ; but this I will be bold to affirm, that their number in this country bears no proportion to those of an opposite stamp, nay, is so small, that it may be considered as next to nothing !— But to continue : the worthy Envoy, before he would permit me to return hither, and without telling me a word of it till done, made fresh applications in my favour in London, without any manner of effect ; and on many occasions I had of conversing with him, reprobated, in the most pointed terms, the conduct of his country to the Foreign, and especially to the British Officers ; said, that the Queen must have lost her senses, (*que la Reine avoit perdue l'Esprit*) for she seemed to pitch upon the best
Officers

Officers on purpose to disgust them, and make them quit the service ; that hardly any now remained who could better themselves, except some mean mercenary wretches, who sold their consciences for a bit of bread, and pretended to turn Catholics, to flatter the humour of a foolish and superstitious Court. These things, he added, pierced him to the heart, seeing them expose themselves to the contempt of all Europe, at the very moment every other nation was intent on reducing the overgrown power of the Church, and keeping the insolent and troublesome Clergy within the proper limits of authority : instead of which, in Lisbon, they were throwing more power into the hands of those Incendiaries, whose wretched disputes and intrigues had so often deluged Europe with blood : and what (he said) added greatly to his vexation, was to be a spectator of these crying abuses, without having it in his power to

prevent them; that he would most willingly write to Lisbon in my favour, knowing how hardly I had been treated both there and in London, but he was sensible that, as the Court then stood affected, his letters would be of no service to me, and might most probably hurt himself; he could therefore do no more for the present, than wish us a safe voyage back to Portugal, recommending to us that necessary degree of patience so useful in such a situation.

“And thus, my Lord, hither we are but very lately returned from England, as you may suppose, in no very agreeable circumstances, finding the proffer of our services rejected in our native land, our persons disliked, and our services undervalued and neglected, in the country where we are obliged to remain for a scanty subsistence, with hardly any other prospect before us, but that of drudging on in the same condition; nor any other hope of relief, but the
distant

distant and uncertain one of some change in our favour, either in the administration of this country or in England; which, considering the shortness and uncertainty of life, will, most probably, when it happens, arrive too late."

Good night, dear Charles! I am just going to bed, though rather early, as we set out also early in the morning. Adieu.

L E T.

LETTER VII.

Villa Viçoza, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER,

THOUGH I think I might safely leave you to make your own reflections upon the contents of my last, yet, as a professional man, who feels the indecent behaviour of your Commander in Chief to the two brave Officers mentioned, much more home than you can possibly do, I cannot help observing, that when Officers of real experience are thus neglected, and when pitiful paltry Interest shuts up all other avenues of preferment in England, (as I have so often heard it affirmed in Spain) their enemies will have but little to fear from an army
so

so composed. As for the pretence of the unalterable resolution the King is said to have laid down, and which was made use of to Colonel Bagot as a reason for non-admission, it is an insult and mockery upon the common sense of mankind, and totally unworthy of serious consideration; for, if adhered to, it is doing no more nor less, than if the King were to tell Colonel Bagot, “It is very true, Sir, and I acknowledge that you are an Officer of talents and experience—I know you have served me faithfully both in Germany and America, and that you are at this moment in a condition to serve me much more usefully and honourably than great numbers of unexperienced young men, who know nothing of their duty, who have never seen service, and whom I am daily promoting nevertheless to the ranks of Captain, Major, and Lieutenant-Colonel, and whose time of service, such as it has been, is nothing in comparison

comparifon to yours: yet, having by and with the advice of my Secretary at War and of my Commander in Chief, laid down the above-mentioned rule, in order to increafe their patronage and furnifh them with more ample means of doing injuftice to Officers of real merit, who have nothing but that paltry confideration for their protection, I am refolved to adhere to it without exception, to deprive *myfelf* (I am forry for it) of your fervices, which I am confcious would be exceedingly ufeful to me, efpecially at this prefent juncture, and *you* of what is fairly your right and due, by doing you fuch a flagrant piece of injuftice.” —Now, is it to be fupposed, that there exifts a crowned Head at this moment in Europe, who by his actions would authorife fuch reafoning? and among them all, fhall George the Third of Great-Britain be he? No! I will never believe it; and it is much more natural and reasonable to fuppose,

suppose, that his confidence has been abused by interested and unprincipled servants, as it happens to every King in Europe but one, who never puts it in their power to deceive him : finally, it is exactly saying, " Being conscious that, by the partiality of the promotions in the Army, many Officers of merit and services have been overlooked and neglected, and that they labour under the severest hardships and grievances on that account ; now that these circumstances are come to my knowledge, I am resolved, by rigorously adhering to the above unjust and wanton rule, to put it for ever out of my own power to redress them."

——Believe me, it was not by such unwarrantable behaviour to soldiers of fortune, that England rose in former days, to that high pitch of military fame from which she is now descending with such rapidity.

We found it impossible to decide within ourselves, whether our friendship, our esteem,

teem, or our sympathy, for the two worthy Officers, had the predominance. Lord Freeman, as the spokesman on our part, thanked Colonel Bagot particularly, for all the information he had given us, declared it was so much the more agreeable to him, as he had not formed the smallest expectation of being entertained in this country so much to his satisfaction; and said, that, if he should have the good fortune of making such valuable acquaintance in the other parts of the country he proposed visiting, he should have reason to applaud the resolution he had formed, of taking a tour in Portugal; for he is not of the sentiment of those travellers, whose principal object is to please the eye with the sight of fine buildings, beautiful landscapes, or lofty mountains; nor of those who pay much attention to what or when they eat or drink, or where they slept: the investigation of men, not of things, is his aim; and
a competent

a competent knowledge, he thinks, it should be the traveller's first study to acquire of the language of the people he is among, their political, military and ecclesiastical government, the happy or miserable condition of the great body of the inhabitants, and of the causes producing the effects under his consideration, together with a proper notion of the history of the country and of the present state of Literature, of Commerce and of the Arts and Sciences, as cultivated among them: he told them, he was but a poor Captain for the present, though the eldest son of a very rich man in England; wished most earnestly it were in his power to be of any sort of service to two Gentlemen for whom he had such a real regard and esteem; and, after repeated acknowledgments for the very hospitable reception we had met with, we took an affectionate leave of these two worthy Hibernians,

nians, who were also both very sensibly affected at parting with us.

We embarked about two o'clock the next morning, as the tide then served to carry us up the river, and arrived at Mertola, a place of note in former times, the { Myrtillis Julia of the Romans ; but now such a miserable-looking place, that we immediately mounted our horses, and proceeded on our journey, upon a new-made road, for the most part excellent, but so overgrown with brambles and other weeds, that in some parts it was with difficulty we could get along. After travelling some hours, we stopped and opened our stores to take some refreshment, and then continuing five leagues more, we arrived at night heartily tired, at the city of Beja, { the Pax Julia of the Antients, from whence two of my letters to you were dated.

We

We found however nothing at this Pax Julia to draw our particular attention, exclusive of its situation raised upon an eminence, in the midst of an extensive plain, which might easily be converted into a fine fertile country, but which lies a dreary uncultivated waste, owing positively to the want of inhabitants, and to the indolence of those few who cultivate the earth, by scratching the surface of it in a few small spots, which appeared at vast distances from each other in the midst of a brown and fruitless heath. Here the young Priest, John Carlos, was of great use to us, by conversing with the peasants, whom we found surprisingly courteous and ready to give us any information required; and struck me the more, as the Spanish peasants are in general remarkable for the very opposite disposition, being haughty, rude and brutal to strangers. We learned from the peasants, that the new road we travelled

over from Mertola, had been made by order of the Marquis of Pombal, on occasion of his building the new town in the Algarve, to facilitate the transportation of goods to the interior country, and that it had been done by *Corvée*, or by obliging the peasants at the distance of eight or ten leagues round, to come and work upon the road, at their own expence, and without any sort of gratification from Government, and that it never had been, and they hoped never would, be of any use. We were informed here also, that consumptive people come from Lisbon, to breathe the pure air of this place, in the same manner they are sent from England to Lisbon on the same account.

At Evora, I was favoured with yours dated from Richmond, (where you say you have been to pass a few days by invitation) which was remitted me by our correspondent at Lisbon, and I am very happy to find, that you do not press me on the article

ticle of returning so quickly to England as you mentioned at first ; for if you did, I should be laid under the necessity, either of not complying with your inclinations, a circumstance which would distress me greatly, or I should lose the satisfaction of a most agreeable and instructive party here, which I should now quit with the most sensible regret. I find my esteem and value for Lord Freeman increase, in proportion as I become better acquainted with him, and we are both unanimous in admiring the capacity and quick parts of the young Priest we have in our company, and the eager desire with which he seems to catch at every occasion of obtaining instruction and information ; so that, perhaps, there never were three people, met together by accident, who concurred more perfectly in their pursuits, humours and dispositions.

Before I stir abroad here, I sit down to answer your letter, and to give

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you

you some account of our adventures at Evora.

I cannot help remarking the singularity of your friendly advice to me, and at the same time how very inconsistent it is with what has hitherto been the tenor of your own behaviour in that respect; and I leave you to judge, which of us two either has been, or now is, in the best situation to think of marriage; I, a poor Captain in the Spanish service, attached to a Regiment every year changing quarters, and subject to severe and tedious marches, through hot dusty plains and uninhabited provinces, one year from Barcelona to Malaga, the next, from Malaga to Burgos, from thence again to Corunna and Ferrol, and from Ferrol to Cadiz, above six hundred English miles at a stretch, with neither post-chaises nor English inns upon the road, but only furnished, at the expence of his Catholic Majesty, with the powerful assistance of a couple

couple of (*burros*) jack-asses, to transport my person, my baggage and my dear dulcinea, if I were married, as you would have me—or you, my dear brother, who have been so many years in a tip-top way in London, rolling in money and with the world flowing upon you, so as not only to supply every wish and want of your own, but also to enable you to behave, as you have done to me, with such unexampled friendship and generosity.

You need be under no apprehension, of my having contracted any serious engagement in Spain; for though with the help of youth, a scarlet coat, and a figure I imagine not disadvantageous, I have had many opportunities of paying court to the Spanish ladies, and think them exceeding lively and agreeable, witty and cheerful, even to a degree which little agrees with the characteristic gravity of the nation; yet matrimony is a business, which has never yet en-

grossed my thoughts for a moment, whatever may happen henceforward, now that I have so near a prospect of spending the rest of my days in the bosom of sweet Lerne, where I fondly imagine I shall be more apt to catch the flame from Irish beauty, than from any other whatever, not excepting even your London ladies, if what you say of their present mode of education be true, which I have no reason to doubt of. If fathers and mothers can reconcile it to their consciences, to educate their daughters in the ignorance of every thing but dissipation, extravagance and dress, what must they expect but to see them turn out jilts or strumpets, whether married or not? and despised and disliked, at best, for their ignorance, idleness and impertinence, by every man of sense with whom they are connected?

At Evora we put up at a tolerable inn, I mean when compared to most others of
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this country : this city was the Liberalitas }
 Julia of the Romans, the birth-place of the }
 famous Viriatus, as the Portuguese authors }
 inform us, and, for some time, the resi- }
 dence of Sertorius, after he was proscribed }
 by Sylla at Rome, and had raised a rebel- }
 lion in Spain : the country about it is cover- }
 ed with vineyards, interspersed with corn- }
 fields, and there stands without the walls }
 a large Carthusian Convent called Scala }
 Cœli, or the Ladder of Heaven : here a }
 number of self-devoted, gloomy enthusiasts }
 lead a voluntary life of abstemious and un- }
 availing insipidity, which by a little cus- }
 tom soon becomes habitual, and of no }
 manner of coercion upon them, while the }
 rigid and edifying appearance of such asce- }
 tick virtue sometimes stuns the reflection }
 even of thinking men, and imprints for }
 these recluses, in the opinion of the vulgar, }
 an attachment and respect little short of }
 what would be ascribed to them after

obtaining the long wished-for Apothe-
osis.

As Lord Freeman had been taken ill upon the road to Evora, owing, as we supposed, to something improper he had eaten, and which put his stomach considerably out of order, and could not safely venture out the next day, John Carlos and myself kept him company till towards evening, when we walked to the Great Square, which is nearly in the middle of the city, and at the foot of an eminence, on which the castle stands : there we observed the same appearance of sloth, languor and poverty ; and as we advanced into the Square, and were remarking the dark and gloomy situation of the shops under long deep arches, young John Carlos was surpris'd by an old Priest running up to him and taking him in his arms, and more, at his addressing him in English, though with an accent in his pronunciation, which readily directed the hearer to guess

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at what had been his native country. John Carlos quickly recollected having seen him the year before in Lisbon, when he came there on account of the new Government, to kiss the King and Queen's Confessors' hands, and to beg the favour of their countenance and protection. Doctor Butler (for that was his name) offered very frankly to accompany us, and shew every thing worth notice in or about the city ; but observing it was then rather late, and that we could satisfy our curiosity much better the next morning, when he would be ready to wait on us, we agreed to his proposal, provided he would favour us with his company at our inn; to which, after some civil altercation, he consented. We returned with him to the inn, where Lord Freeman, who was now pretty well recovered, took care to thank the Doctor for the pleasure of his company, and us for bringing him. The Doctor, who was well known in Evora, where

where he lived for above thirty years, was President of the Irish College established there in the reign of King Peter the Second for the education of young students from Ireland, who should afterwards return as Missionaries, to support the good old cause in their own country; but as the rents which supported the College had been mostly alienated, or withdrawn, under various pretexts, during the late Administration, the establishment had been almost abandoned, insomuch, that since the war in Portugal of 1762, not a student had been educated there, the Doctor alone being permitted to enjoy his scanty income, which, with the assistance of the Masses he said, served barely to support him.

The good old man (for such he really appeared to us) seemed delighted with this opportunity of meeting with any of his countrymen, for he had philanthropy enough to consider English and Irish as
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the same, and was exceedingly taken with Lord Freeman's manner, to whom he chiefly directed his discourse. As we were sitting down to supper, the Doctor called the obsequious landlord, and delivering him a key, ordered him to go to his College, and desire his servant to bring him a double flask of his best wine, immediately adding, "for I know the four trash you keep in the house is not fit for these Gentlemen to drink." The landlord went, and soon returned with the Doctor's servant bearing the flask under his arm. We supped, and talked of a variety of things, told the Doctor of our scheme of visiting the Frontiers, and of our going to Elvas with a recommendatory letter which Colonel Bagot had given us to the Governor; we then tasted his wine, which we found greatly superior to any we had yet drank in the country, and begged to know where he procured it? The Doctor seemed much pleased that we liked

liked his wine, and said, that as poor an Ecclesiastic as he was, he had always a few pipes of it in his cellar, and that he had all the wine for his own drinking made by his particular directions, in which consisted whatever difference we had remarked between it and the other wines of the country, and wished heartily it were in his power to convey some of it to his good friends in Ireland. Lord Freeman took that opportunity to fill a bumper to their healths, not forgetting the Doctor's own. The old man's eyes lightened up on the occasion, and he asked his Lordship if he had ever been in Ireland? to which he replied, he never had, but proposed visiting it with attention and care as soon as possible. The Doctor said, that, though it was now near forty years since he had set a foot in his native country, yet, Heaven was his witness, that he still continued to send up his daily and fervent prayers for her happiness and prosperity;

perity; that he knew very well how his countrymen were going on, for that he had some friends in Dublin who sent him every six months, whole packets of their magazines and newspapers, by the ships to Lisbon or St. Ubes, and that his great amusement in his retreat was the perusal of these papers, after daily fulfilling the duties of his profession; that he was exceedingly happy to find them advancing in improvements, and particularly to learn that the noxious spirit of rancour and jealousy between the professors of the old and new religion was now almost extinguished and forgotten, which promised the most permanent benefits to the nation; and that nothing delighted him so much as to see Christians of every denomination, worshipping God in the manner they sincerely believed the most acceptable to him, and closely embracing each other in the bonds of universal charity, benevolence and love. We
were

were agreeably struck with this just and liberal observation, where we so little expected to meet with it. Lord Freeman continued the conversation till it was late, and became so much the more pleased with the Doctor's company ; and as he had still many questions to ask him, and wished to be acquainted with a number of circumstances he was now sensible the Doctor could inform him of, he hinted as much to himself, assuring him, that though the tasting of his wine had agreeably surprised him, it was nothing to the satisfaction he enjoyed in conversing with him. The Doctor observed it was already past his hour of retiring, and that at his time of life it was necessary to be uniform, but said he would certainly wait on us in the morning and be of every service to us in his power, on condition that we promised to accompany him to his College to breakfast, where we should find every thing in the old Irish way, and a dish
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of as good chocolate as ever was made in Spain: this being agreed on, we parted.

The next morning the Doctor conducted us to the Castle, now mostly in ruins, but standing high in the middle of the town, and from whence we had a charming prospect of the rich adjacent country; "What a shame (cried the Doctor) that so fine a country should be in the hands of such wretches! No country on earth produces finer grapes, nor worse wine than this where we now are, entirely owing to their slovenly manner of making it! They have not a barrel, nor any kind of wooden vessel in the whole province, and they make and keep all their wine, in large ill-baked earthen jars, and mix lime and chalk in it, by way of fining it down; and transport it from place to place, in dried hogs-skins, sewed up and pitched all over within and without, which renders the wine totally unfit for any Christian to drink! See, Gentlemen,

tllemen, what an extent of country to the southward covered with heath! what would not that produce, if the vine were planted there, or if it were covered with corn and villages? for there is not a spot that would not admit of cultivation; had we but hands to occupy the ground, this province alone could furnish wheat for the whole kingdom at least; instead of which we are yearly importing vast quantities of bad grain from abroad—will you believe me, Gentlemen, when I assure you, that only the tythe of the wheat which the parish of the Cathedral Church of this city pays to the Chapter, amounts to above sixty thousand of your English pecks? and yet the country is starving, and misery stares you in the face, whichever way you turn yourself.” He next carried us to the Cathedral. Where is your Archbishop? (said Lord Freeman) Never where he ought to be, (replied the Doctor) he has not appeared once here, since he
came

came to take possession of his See ; he is too great a man to do the duty of the good Shepherd ; *Oves suas Pastor non cognoscit, nec Pastoris notitiam oves habent*—he is Inquisitor General, Regent of the Courts of Justice, and I know not how many other employments besides, his friend the late Minister heaped upon him, though he is the most uninformed and dullest fellow ever put on the habit of St. Austin. He then led us to what had been the College of the Jesuits, an immense building now going to ruin, though, since their expulsion, the late favourite had made a feeble attempt to set up a silk manufactory in it, which, for want of support, soon fell to the ground, as happened to most of his manufactures.

We afterwards mounted all on horseback to survey the famous aqueduct, built by Sertorius, and still in use, which conveys a noble stream of water to the city, so excellent, that the inhabitants call it (*agua de prata*) the silver water, brought from a

fountain at about five leagues distant : the Doctor also shewed us some traces and remains of the Roman wall, which had surrounded the city, and which their King, Don Fernando, had ordered to be thrown down about the year 1380, at the very time he had wantonly engaged in a war with Don Juan, King of Castille : we then observed the modern fortifications about the city, which are now full of breaches, and the Doctor made some remarks upon their design and use, which to us appeared perfectly just and apposite. Lastly, we went to visit the Recluses of St. Bruno, where we obtained ready access by the Doctor's means ; but Lord Freeman having before seen the Reverend Fathers of la Trappe at Paris, found nothing new in this Castle of Indolence, though its appearance struck young John Carlos much. The shelves of their Library were filled as usual with the same dull, polemical and biographical Works, thickly interlarded with miracles ;

rales; and the only book which attracted our notice was an excellent copy of Homer's Iliad, in folio, which Lord Freeman was strongly tempted to carry along with him, and asked the Reverend Librarian present what it was? He replied, that he believed it was an old Hebrew or Arabic book, which had remained there from the time of the Moors, but that none of the Masters now in the Convent understood it! Lord Freeman was by this the more encouraged, and just going to mention it to the Keeper, and offer him money for it, when the Doctor interposed, telling him it was impracticable, and a thing not to be attempted, for that by their institution they had it not in their power to alienate the most trifling thing belonging to the House.

We now returned to the Doctor's apartments at the College, very well disposed for breakfast; and we were regaled with very good tea, eggs, fresh butter and good

cream, for the first time we had seen it in the country.

It was now however almost time to depart, and our horses were waiting for us, at the same time we were delighted with the good sense of the Doctor's conversation, which we expressed ourselves exceedingly sorry to lose : Lord Freeman even took the liberty to pray the Doctor would give us his opinion, formed by long experience and observation, of the state of this country and the character of its inhabitants, expressing his confidence of how much he was assured such information would abridge our labour, in becoming truly acquainted with the national genius and disposition. The Doctor, perfectly well disposed to oblige us, and after telling us he was persuaded we would make no improper use of what he would say, expressed himself as you shall be informed in my next. Till then, adieu.

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LETTER VIII.

Jurumenha, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER,

WE put up at a miserable inn here this night, having made an excursion from Villa Viçosa, to visit the banks of the Guadiana and the Garrison of Olivença, which, though beyond it, and on the Spanish side, yet belongs to the Crown of Portugal, with a considerable territory round it.

To believe the Portuguese historians, it is all classic ground which we have been reconnoitring, and the scenes of their most brilliant actions and encounters with their natural enemies the Castilians, who are not however disposed to give them such a share of credit for their military achieve-

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ments,

ments, which I may have occasion to touch upon in a future letter : In the present, I shall give you the Doctor's information, as mentioned in my last, as I think it really useful for any one who wishes to be acquainted with the national character.

“ I hold him of all men (said Doctor Butler) the most unpardonable sort of impostor, who, under pretext of confidential friendship, endeavours to disguise the truth, and to mislead those, who he perceives have in any manner relied upon his information or direction ; and for this reason, in what I have to say to you, I shall prefer truth to every other consideration, even should it bear sometimes hard upon my own clerical character and profession ; for though there be truly a number of wicked and profligate men in this kingdom, who cover the baseness of their actions with the sacred habit of St. Peter, yet all their misconduct and misconceptions no more affect the real essence of our holy faith, than the most piercing cold

cold can affect the Adamant, or a cloud of locusts the Sun : moreover, Gentlemen, your own experience, as you proceed in the country, will be the best comment upon the propriety of the observations I shall make, which must be few and general, as the day is already well advanced, and you have a pretty long ride, before you can reach any place of repose.

“ In my own mind I can trace the ruined and consumptive state of all modern Spain, from the cruel and unjust expulsion of the Jews and Moors ; but the barbarous usage which the former met with in this country especially, has been justly retaliated as a curse upon it ever since, for it has remained comparatively a desert ; and the forced conversions which their great King D. Manuel, was so zealous in forwarding, fixed a prodigious quantity of Jewish blood in Portugal, which has found its way into most of their families, of distinction parti-

cularly, and is so easily to be distinguished in their features, tempers and dispositions.

“ One thing which must strike an accurate observer, who is in any degree acquainted with the Spaniards and Portuguese, is, the surprising contrast in the characteristical distinction so perceptible between the same classes of people in these two kingdoms :
✱ In Spain, the (*Hidalgo*) Nobleman is what he ought to be ; brave, sincere and liberal, both in his sentiments and actions—in this country he is perfectly the reverse. As you descend among the Spaniards, the national character vitiates, and it is well—known the Spanish peasant is a proud, beggarly, insolent, brutal animal—in this country, the lower you descend in rank, the personal character rises and improves upon you ; and I dare say, you have not met
✱ with a peasant where you have yet travelled, who has not been courteous and affable, to a degree hardly to be found in any other country ; and I may venture to assure you, that

that if you keep this remark in view, you will find it justified by your own experience.

“ I wish on the present occasion I could with justice except the Royal House of Bragança from the general censure on the Portuguese Nobility, *sed magna est veritas et prevalebit* : the truth is, if there has ever been any thing of Royalty in that family, it has been entirely owing to the station in which their countrymen placed it ; and probably, had it not been for his Wife, a noble Spaniard, D. John the Fourth, would not have taken up the Crown they set before him ; his sons, D. Affonço and D. Pedro, spent their time in low intrigues against each other, married the same woman, and were supported in their throne by the French and the English, and by the assistance of Count Schomberg, the Earl of Inchiquin, and a number of good Foreign Officers : King John the Fifth spent his time either in the company of Priests or women,

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formed the Church of Lisbon into a Patriarchate, let his army dwindle to nothing, encouraged bigotry, the Inquisition, and the Nobility. When growing old, to make himself the longer fit for the company of the ladies, he took c-nth—d-s, the effects of which debilitated him so much, as to throw him into a lingering disorder; and having lived like a Sultan in the enjoyment of his favourite pleasure, he had both time and all the means of conversion and reconciliation with Heaven, which disingenuous and flattering Priests could afford him, to die like a Saint; so that his subjects said of him, (*que vivo como quiz, e morreo como quiz*) that he lived and died exactly as he could have wished.

“ The administration of this country during the last reign, was marked by very different features: a resolute and overbearing Minister, centered every channel of power and authority in himself alone; a weak and pusillanimous King, rendered diffident

diffident by the disloyalty of his own Nobility, threw himself entirely into the arms of his Minister, as being the only person he could trust; and the Minister, conscious he was hated or despised by the Nobility, lost no opportunity their own folly and imprudence afforded him, to curb their insolence and reduce their authority. A personal quarrel the Minister had with a Jesuit, the King's Confessor, at the beginning of his administration, added to other pre-existing causes, made him seriously and heartily resolve on setting every engine to work for the destruction of the Jesuits, which he at last accomplished. The earthquake of 1755 served only to confirm his authority and render it more absolute, and then it was he became perpetual Dictator. The war with Spain, which followed some years after, by the introduction of Foreign troops into the kingdom, and of a number of Foreign Officers among the national Regiments, enabled him to set his foot effectually upon
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the neck of the Clergy, so that from that time to the conclusion of his power, they never durst lift up their heads: he did a great deal of good, and likewise much harm, all proceeding rather from personal and self-interested motives, than from any regard to the good of his country. He reduced the numbers of religious houses, and discouraged or suppressed the rage of entering into the religious life. He ruined or impoverished the mercantile part of the subjects, by throwing the trade (which he affected much to encourage) into the hands of exclusive companies, composed of some favoured individuals, who were the only gainers, while the great body of those whose subsistence depended upon trade, were perishing for want.

“ After the war, he might have formed such a complete little well-provided army, as would have effectually bid defiance to the whole land-force Spain could have brought against it; and in doing this, he had the assistance

sistance of a very able General, well known in Europe for his professional capacity, and of several experienced Officers : but instead of doing so, he neglected the Army, and thought it too expensive. He behaved in the most shuffling and dissatisfactory manner to the Count la Lippe, and treated most of the other Foreign Officers with insolence or neglect, so that his best friends considered his behaviour in this particular as a paradox ; and they were at a loss to account for his neglecting the army, which had been the best means of establishing his authority, and would be his only resource, if that authority ever came to be called in question.

“The last act of his government, and when the King his master was on his death-bed, was to marry the Presumptive Heir of the Crown, a boy of sixteen years of age, to his own Aunt, a woman past one and thirty ; and this act was a worthy conclusion of such a tempestuous administration.

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“ The late King’s death was the signal of the Minister’s disgrace; and the truths and untruths industriously circulated against him by above eight hundred persons of all conditions, whom he had kept in durance, and who were now released, augmented and inflamed the popular roar of clamour and obloquy, which accompanied him to his retreat, to which he retired with all the steadiness of an antient Athenian, exiled by the law of Ostracism. He has been succeeded, as is usual in such cases, by one of his greatest antagonists, who during the former administration was obliged to keep very quiet, and to exert all the low cunning he is such a master of, to be permitted to live in peace; for he is allowed on all sides to possess all the bad qualities of his predecessor in office, and that perhaps to a more eminent degree, while impartial judges, and the least addicted to scepticism, doubt whether he inherits any one of his virtues.

“ Accord-

“According to a common observation, the present time and government is sacred and must not be meddled with ; and indeed, as you are going to Lisbon, and will see and hear with your own eyes and ears, it will speak for itself ; only I must give it as my opinion, that the Church ought not to assume so extensive a part in the political drama, as I see it is now doing, for it must in consequence neglect its own proper functions and sacred vocation ; and when it does so, it becomes hurtful, instead of doing good ; nay it is even indecent, to see the Queen’s Confessor interfere so much in temporal affairs, or the other honey-mouthed Fryar, the Englishman, or rather the Scotchman, the King’s Confessor, writing essays which expose him to public ridicule : but what mortifies me most of all is, to see that the Queen has permitted the Inquisition to reassume its long abdicated authority ; for this circumstance will make all
Europe

Europe cry out shame, upon such a Queen and such a Government."

As soon as Doctor Butler had concluded, Lord Freeman got up and embraced him, thanking him sincerely for such a substantial and compendious account as that he had given us, of what we so much desired to know ; said, he would take care to set the proper value on it, and begged to know if we could possibly be of any service to him where we were going? The Doctor replied, that there was not any thing with which he would presume to trouble us, wished us a happy journey, and assured us, his hearty good wishes and prayers for our safety should accompany us wherever we went.

Judging of my two companions by myself, I can assure you, we parted from our good friend Butler with heavy hearts ; we stopped half-way to Villa Viçosa to bait our cattle, and there stretched under the shade of some spreading pines, reciprocally endeavoured to do justice to our sentiments
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of the man, and sincerely regretted that so worthy a person should be buried in such obscurity.

While we were thus paying the tribute we thought due to our friend Butler's character, a man upon a mule came up to us, bringing a note from the Doctor to Lord Freeman, enclosing a letter for a Gentleman of his intimate acquaintance at Elvas, who, the Doctor said in his note, he believed, would be of more real use to us, than the Governor himself, who never lodged any Gentleman from abroad in his own house; whereas he knew the other would be infinitely obliged to him for sending us to him, and that it had entirely escaped him to give us the letter before we left Evora, owing to our being so much taken up in other conversation.

After perusing the good Doctor's note, desiring many compliments and thanks to him, and rewarding the messenger for his

trouble, we continued our journey to Villa Viçosa.

I am just going to lie down in my cloak, as it is late, and I hear my friends already snoring on the ground here about me.—
Good night.

LET.

LETTER IX.

Castle Branco, 1778,

DEAR BROTHER,

I HAVE not written you a line for three weeks past, as we have all had our hands so full, I have only had time to assist my memory by making occasional notes of what I thought would have been apt to slip it, in giving you an account of our travels, and for which I think our visit to the garrison of Elvas particularly has supplied some materials, which will not be found altogether unworthy of your perusal. When such striking examples of national character as we there saw, pass before the eyes of a person possessed of but a middling share of judgment, to take off

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a true copy, as in my description of them I shall endeavour to do, they can hardly fail of furnishing a sober and rational entertainment to every investigator of human nature, much more satisfactory than all the flowing and fictitious descriptions to be found in the numberless volumes of Novel and Romance.

But before I proceed, I must tell you, that I am anxious to know how far you relish the method I have followed in treating the subject in my preceding letters; nor shall I rest satisfied, till I either find what I have already written has obtained your approbation, or you give me your more particular directions how you would have me proceed in future: I therefore entreat, you will be particular in answering me on this point by your first letter after the receipt of this; in the certain hopes of which, I now proceed to fill up the interval of our history since my last letter, dated at Jurumenha, (where, though we slept in
our

our cloaks, we were almost devoured by bugs, gnats, and cock-roaches) to the present moment.

It is very fortunate, that Lord Freeman's notion of travelling, and his methods of observation, happen to be so similar to my own, for had they been the contrary, of course we should have separated before now; but as we are, and considering that by keeping together we are of reciprocal advantage to each other, of which his Lordship professes himself perfectly sensible, I believe we shall not part till at least we reach Lisbon; he is particularly assiduous in picking up such books as give any description of the part of the country we travel through, in order to verify them by his own observation; and as we knew we were traversing that part of the province of the Alentejo, which had been the principal scenes of the various wars and actions between the Portuguese and Castilians, especially since the accession of the Bragança

family, we resolved to take a military view of the grounds, places and situations ; and on the spot to compare them with the best accounts we should be able to obtain. As soon as our young Priest, John Carlos, became sensible of our intention, he did his utmost to assist us in the scheme : at Villa Viçosa, he respectfully waited upon the old Priests, the Fryars and the principal inhabitants, and by an agreeable manner natural to him, having insinuated himself into their good graces and gained their esteem, towards which the clerical dress did not a little contribute, he then, with many compliments on the bravery of their countrymen, told them what he and his fellow-travellers desired : upon this, we were quickly furnished with recommendations to the Convents near the grounds we wished to examine, or with guides who conducted us to the field of battle of Aincixial, of Montesclaros, of Montijo, or any other place we desired. The Priests were every where
zealous

zealous and ready in producing any books they either had or could procure, to assist us in our researches : we employed some days in these peregrinations over different districts of that country, and the Fryars every where permitted us to examine such old manuscript records of the wars of the Frontiers, and of the Spanish succession, as were preserved in their Archives ; and the same thing happened, when, leaving Villa Viçozza, and travelling through the Tapada*, we came to the city of Estremos, where, by the diligence and industry of John Carlos, we made fresh discoveries, which gave us great satisfaction, and very much enhanced to us the value of our young friend's company.

At last we arrived at Elvas, where we proposed making some stay : when we ap-

* Literally an enclosure : The Tapada at Villa Viçozza, which is a Royal seat, is a large hunting-park belonging to the King, entirely surrounded with a high stone and lime wall. This park is twelve English miles long, by six miles broad.

proached the gate, one of the centinels at the barrier called out to us in a haughty tone, asking from whence we came, and what business brought us there? John Carlos answered, that we came from Estremos, and had letters for his Excellency the Governor; the centinel then conducted us to the Commanding Officer of his guard, who sent us with an armed soldier holding the bridle of each horse, to the Governor's presence; we were kept in that situation, waiting at his door in the street, where the mob soon gathered to stare at us: when his Excellency had done hearing Mass, he ordered us to be admitted, and Lord Freeman presented the letter he brought for him; which after perusing, the Governor said he was very happy to have the honour of knowing us, that his own house, the Regiments under his command, the adjacent Forts of St. Lucia and la Lippe, nay the whole Province of the Alentejo were entirely at our orders, to dispose of them as

we should think proper ; that he hoped we would excuse him for the present, as he was obliged to go to the Despatch, and begged the favour of our company at dinner, which, he said, was exactly at one o'clock.

This ceremonious piece of business being got through with the Governor, who was wrapped up in a long baize cloak, our next was to find out the Gentleman, to whom we were recommended by Doctor Butler ; and as he is the chief Engineer of the Garrison, it was enough to mention his name, which every foldier knew, and we were quickly at his house. Mr. de Valéré (for that is his name) was not within ; but his Lady very politely desired us to walk up, for that he would return very shortly from Fort la Lippe, where he had gone, as he did almost daily, to look after his artificers and workmen employed there ; she then ordered chocolate, and did her best to entertain us, though she spoke only the language of the country, when Monsieur de
Valéré

Valéré entered; a tall thin-looking figure, already of a certain age, but active, nimble and vigorous, and, like most Frenchmen, perfectly well set upon his legs. Lord Freeman delivered him the letter he had for him, which Valéré just ran over, and said, he would immediately write his old friend Butler a letter of thanks for having directed us to him; "Messieurs, Je ne suis que franc Picard, (said Mr. de Valéré) vous trouverez chez moi toute la franchise Anglaise, et tres peu de la ceremonie Française, encore moins de la Portugaise; voici les apartemens (opening the doors of two adjoining rooms) où vous dormirez dans trois lits de Campagne en Soldats; entrez et sortez comme bon vous semblera; mon épouse et mes domestiques sont également bien disposés à vous obeir; et pour moi, Je ne serais content de la maniere dont Je vous aurai reçu, pour en rendre conte à mon ami le Docteur, que selon ce que vous me semblerez l'être."

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The conversation was now carried on entirely in French, in which Lord Freeman and myself were as ready as in our own language : our young Priest understands it also very well, but from want of practice, was not so ready in speaking it, and was therefore greatly pleased with the opportunity of improving in his pronunciation, as he quickly did, and was much encouraged by the familiarity and wonderful openness of Valéré's manner, which perfectly delighted us all ; for he talked away at a great rate on a variety of topics, told us of his intrigues when a volatile young fellow, of his fighting, of his drinking and rioting : In the mean time a message came from the Governor, desiring the favour of the Major General's company to dine with him, (for Valéré has that rank in the service) on which he started up and exclaimed, —A ça, Messieurs ; il est temps de nous peigner, call your servants and dress quickly, Allons ; for we shall have another
message

message from old Square-toes, calling us to dinner, before we are ready.

We arrived however in time, and dinner was then serving up ; the Governor's Lady was the only woman at table, and had much more the appearance of his grand-daughter, than of his wife ; she was wrapped up in her long baize cloak, but her hair was done up prettily with flowers and topaz combs, and a few diamond sprigs, without any cap ; the Governor was also in his cloak, and there had been some fresh powder thrown upon his antient wire wig, since the morning : he took his place on the Lady's right-hand, desiring Valéré to sit on her left ; Lord Freeman sat next Valéré, and a prodigious fat man, in an Officer's uniform, with the Cross of Malta at his breast, sat next the Governor ; his name was Don Joaô, and the company gave him the title of Excellency ; he did not say a word the whole time of dinner, but he ate and drank very successfully and with great
apparent

apparent satisfaction, and laughed immoderately, when the Governor or Lady happened to say what they wished to be taken for a witty thing, his eyes quite disappearing on such occasions, and his prominent belly heaving and being affected with strong convulsive motions. The rest of the company, which was numerous, took their places according to their ranks; the Carving Knight* at the lower end of the table, served the company round, who were stiff and ceremonious, neither was the aid of the cheering glass called in, to exhilarate the guests, but it seemed as if the water, of which they took deep draughts, produced the same effect: his Excellency Don John, in particular, swilled down a three-pint tumbler, brimful of the crystal liquor, at a draught, and made Lord Freeman stare. At last, the Governor called for a wine-glass, into which was poured about a thimbleful

* An office of honour, which still exists at Court, and in some Noblemen's families in Portugal.

of that liquor, and he drank to our healths; we took the opportunity, as well as Valéré, to return the compliment, but had our glasses better filled, and this we repeated twice more to the healths of the Lady and of Don John. One of the Priests, who seemed to be a wag, called for wine repeatedly, on which the Lady began to rally him, and told him, he drank like a Mauregato* or an Englishman; here the Governor calling for another drop of wine, drank to the King of England's health, putting the glass to his lips, but did not taste the liquor either time; the Priest drank again, and talked, and it soon appeared he was the established wit of the company; the Lady simpered, and Don John continued to

* The Mauregatos are a sort of great Fraternity of Carriers of Goods upon mules, through many of the interior provinces of Spain; they are the *Harrieros Yangueses* of Don Quixote, and are remarkable for their fidelity, with regard to any trust committed to their care, and for never admitting persons of equivocal characters into their Society.

laugh,

laugh, as the French stile it, *à gorge déployée*, or with all his might. As soon as dinner was over, a folding door behind the Lady opened, and the company passed into the next apartment, where the Dessert, consisting of sweetmeats and fruit, was set out on a much smaller table; the company took their seats, and was not crowded, for above half of them had disappeared.

The principal luxury of a Portuguese entertainment, as I find, consists in the Dessert; each of the company takes one or more spoonfuls of liquid sweetmeat, and the more it is charged with sugar, the more relishing it is esteemed: a servant stands behind each chair with a large tumbler filled with very cold water, which they drink immediately after the sweetmeats. Their Epicureans and refiners in the pleasure of eating (such as D. John) drink off the water slowly, in order to protract the delightful sensation the cold water raises in
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the palate, when mixed with the sweet-meat it had just before been so strongly impressed with; and which, they assert, very far exceeds the relish of the finest wine that can be drank. It is true, the water-drinkers in Spain, as well as in this country, who, especially among the higher ranks, are by far the majority of both nations, distinguish with wonderful nicety every gradation of difference between the respective waters they taste, and which would be totally imperceptible to us, who have our sense of tasting comparatively dull and blunted, by the frequent use of wine and other intoxicating liquors.

But to return: The company afterwards ate of the different fruits, and drank a glass of Malmsey Madeira, which was set upon the table in small half-pint bottles, with very small glasses, gilded about the edge; but we could not drink the wine, it being so sweet and luscious. After much conversation

converſation about nothing, coffee appeared, and Lord Freeman took an opportunity of aſking the Governor's permiſſion to viſit the Fort la Lippe—Valéré gave him a pull by the ſleeve, but too late, to prevent his having a refusal. The Governor, very properly referred to Valéré himſelf, to witneſs the poſitive orders they had from Court, that no perſon whatever, who was not actually an Officer in the ſervice, ſhould be permitted to ſee it: That another Engliſh traveller, alſo an Officer, had paſſed that way about a year before, and had been extremely deſirous of ſeeing it, without its being poſſible to indulge him, for the ſame reaſon. The Governor expreſſed much regret at not being able to comply with our requeſt; ſaid, that we might viſit the whole Garriſon and Fort St. Lucia with the Major General, and deſired the favour of our company on the Glaciſ the next day forenoon, when he would order out one of the Regiments of the Garriſon, to ma-

nœuvre before us ; we thanked him, assuring him we would wait upon him, after which, we for that time took our leave.

We did not go to our Sesta*, as every body else did, but with Mr. de Valéré perambulated the ramparts of the Garrison, which we found in good order, and every thing in its place, owing to the care and industry of Valéré, who explained to us whatever was necessary for our instruction or information ; we found the soldier's barracks and the casemates, of which there had been many constructed lately, very clean, decent and comfortable, the soldiers

* In warm countries, such as Italy, Spain and Portugal, where, generally speaking, the weather is clear, and the inhabitants are mostly in the practice of rising much earlier than in England, the human body cannot furnish spirits sufficient to resist the effects of the violent heat, through the whole day, without some refreshment ; it is therefore the universal practice to go to sleep for some hours after dinner, which in those countries is over early, and this time of repose, which lasts for two or three hours, is in Portugal called the Sesta, and in Spain the Siesta.

appeared

appeared well dressed, and had a martial air. Mr. de Valéré offered to introduce us to the Nuns of St. Claire, which is there reckoned a compliment; but Lord Freeman declined it, agreeing however, to accompany him in the evening to the Bishop's Palace, where there is a sort of assembly, and where we might play a rubber of whist. Pray, Sir, (said Lord Freeman to Valéré) who was the monstrous fat Officer who sat next the Governor at dinner? A beast, (replied the other) an animal, a true emblem and epitome of Portuguese Nobility, mais n'allez pas croire Messieurs que ce soit la Matiere qui pense, ou bien si celui-la possede le don de penser Il ne l'emploit que sur le manger et le boire et a se procurer des bardaches. He is one of four brothers, like himself, of an antient family; the eldest of them, in possession of an ample family estate, married a daughter of the late Minister, whom he hated and despised; but so circumstanced, that making use of his

reason for once in his life-time, he discovered, that it was better to be bound by marriage, than by four thick stone walls. These brothers, whose family name is Vilhena, will sit and drink you any quantity of wine or punch with the English, or of water with their countrymen, without being the least affected with either. During the campaign of 1762, and for some years after, when there were still many English Officers in this service, they made repeated attacks upon these brothers, in the way of drinking punch, wine, or any other strong liquor, and were constantly foiled and carried off the field, while the brothers remained triumphant. Here is, indeed, true animal life, without perception, or information of any kind, bodies without souls, eating, drinking and sleeping, the chief end and business of the noble family of the Vilhenas; however, it were devoutly to be wished, that all the brethren of the Nobility, were as innocent and harmless as they

they are : The Gentleman you saw, is the youngest brother, and is Colonel of the Regiment of Cavalry of this Garrison, but has not mounted on horseback these five or six years past, as it has not been possible to find a horse able for his weight ; so that, I suppose, after increasing a little more in magnitude, he will be appointed as his other brothers have been successively, when unfit for other duty, nominal Governors of some old Fort or Castle, to give them the privilege of wearing a scarlet coat with a broad lace upon it, and of waddling into Court on a holiday, to kiss her Majesty's hand.

Lord Freeman returned to the charge, and begged to know, why so great a part of the company retired immediately after dinner, and did not come into the desert ? To answer that question (said Mr. de Valéré) will, I am afraid, carry me too far at present ; however, you must know, my Lord, that we have here a number of books of

regulations, for the discipline, cloathing, œconomy and so forth, of the troops, indeed too many of them, and perhaps chiefly for that reason, so little minded or observed, Count la Lippe's regulations not excepted; but we have one book entitled, *The perfect Portuguese Captain*, written many years ago, and highly applauded and approved of by the Holy Office and twenty Priests or Friars of different Orders; this book is still held in high esteem, by the Nobility and principal persons of the Army; it contains indeed little or nothing concerning the military duty of the Officer, which has not been abrogated by more modern regulations; but on the other hand, it is quite the mirror of politeness and decorum; It teaches the Officer how many plaits he is to have in his shirt, and how many curls in his wig, the exact breadth of the lace on his coat, how he is to bow and kneel, when he comes into a room, as you saw them this day kneel to the Lady; it explains to the Officer, after
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the most diffuse and edifying manner, all his duty as a Catholic Christian, the nature of all the Sacraments, and how he is to receive them, proves the truth of the real presence so forcibly, as to convince all who before believed it, compares his kneeling at the altar to eat the Deity, to the honour of sitting down at table to dine with his General, and he is particularly careful in directing the Subaltern and Captain how they are to behave in this solemn act; tells them, they are to keep their eyes modestly fixed on the plate or dish immediately before them; that they are to tuck one end of the table-napkin under their chin, and to place the other under the plate they eat off; that they are to hold the spoon or knife in the right-hand, and the fork in the left; with many other directions of equal consequence; and that, most particularly, as soon as dinner is over, and the desert served, and before the General shall eat his sweetmeat, every Subaltern who shall happen to be at

table must rise up and retire, and this was the true reason why so many Officers did not come in, as you saw this day, to the desert.

Lord Freeman enquired what could be the meaning of such a humiliating distinction towards the Subalterns of the Army? Mr. de Valéré told him, he believed it was because at the time that book was written, and till Count la Lippe's regulations took place in 1763, no Subaltern had a commission signed by the King; but their authority to act as Subalterns, was only signed by the Captains of the respective companies, and by the Vedôr Gerál* of the Province where the Regiment happened to be at the time of signing; the Subalterns being then generally taken, as they still continue mostly to be, from the menial servants of the Nobility.

* The Paymaster-General established formerly in every province, but abolished in 1763, when there was a Treasurer-General of the Army appointed in Lisbon.

I must

I must conclude here for the present ; but shall in my future letters, and before I leave this place, continue my account of the information we got from General Valéré, and of his own adventures, which really would appear very like a tale made at pleasure, were he not a character of the most acknowledged uprightness and veracity ; and I believe you will by this time have formed no very elevated opinion of the Portuguese Subaltern Officers ; you will indeed judge of them and of every thing else I relate, by the facts and circumstances I mention, and which are unquestionable ; and not by any opinion of mine, when I venture to give it, which is subject to error, and to convey mistaken information. Adieu.

L E T.

LETTER X.

Castle Branco, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER,

WHAT a delightful country might this be made, and would soon become, were it in the hands of the English, French or Irish, instead of the slovens who now possess it! — In our perambulations here this morning we happened to stumble into the Convent of the Capuchin Fryars; indeed our attention was called thither by a shrieking we heard of womens' voices as we passed by the door of the Church; on entering, we saw two of the Fryars dressed in the Surplices and Stolas, standing before the great Altar, and reading from their Breviary the Office of Exorcism of Demoniacks, on those possessed

possessed with unclean Spirits. Before them there lay upon the ground three women, dressed in black petticoats and a sort of veil or mantle, which covers the head and the whole body down to the knees or lower, and is indeed the universal dress of all the women in Church. Two of these women howled piteously, and the other was shrieking and tearing her hair, and making the strangest contortions of her features, and the more so each time the Acolyte, according to the form prescribed, sprinkled them with the holy water, by means of a pretty large brush he dipped into it; but in a short time the Devil seemed to leave them! For my part I had seen and heard so much of those miserable tricks that I left them; Lord Freeman observing, that the two Fryars were tall stout-looking young men, and in his opinion extremely proper for exorcising the women; and we afterwards were told, that they were the only two of the whole Convent skilled in the art of exorcising,

orcising, and as such sent for all over that part of the country.

But this is not what I wanted to mention,---On leaving the Church we walked into the Cloister, and finding a door open, passed through into the garden or orchard of the Convent; there we met several of the Reverend Fathers, who were basking in the sun, and on finding which was the Father Guardian, we made up to him, politely saying, we hoped he would excuse the liberty our curiosity had prompted us to take of visiting his garden, upon the condition of which we paid him a compliment, though it little deserved it. His Reverence upon this was very gracious, and among other plants he shewed us the real Tea-tree growing there, in a good and flourishing condition: he said it had been planted there many years ago by a Fryar of their Convent, who had brought it with him either from Japan or China, he could not tell which, whither he had been sent

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as a Missionary. The fact is, that I saw it growing in their garden in the open air, and to convince us of it, he gave us some of the dried leaves he had gathered some time before, as the other Fathers witnessed, which we brought with us, and made tea of them for breakfast, and I may safely say, I never drank any tea more palatable.

You will remark, that all this is out of my road, as in fact it is, but I could not well avoid mentioning it as passing under my eye here ; I shall now proceed to Mr. de Valéré.

The extraordinary account he had given us of the Subalterns of the Army being composed of the Servants of the Nobility, had raised our curiosity to know, what such an abuse was to be ascribed to ; this Mr. de Valéré saw, but knowing he had not then time to enter into such a discussion, reminded us it was then time to repair to the Bishop's, as we had agreed, and thither we accordingly went. On the way Mr. de Valéré

leré told us, that this Bishop was come of a noble family of English extraction, that he often boasted he had English ribs in his body, and would certainly receive us very graciously; and that, as to his personal character, he was the most intriguing, mischievous Ecclesiastick he had ever been acquainted with; that he made it his business to quarrel with every Governor appointed to the Garrison, by exciting false accusations and informations against them, and by aspersions, through intermediate persons, on their characters; that he differed with an English Governor who was appointed there during the war, an Officer of very great reputation and abilities, under the pious pretext, that a person of the fair sex had come from Lisbon to visit him, which scandalized the Bishop's pretended delicacy, at the same time he himself kept a couple of mistresses in the house with him, under the denomination of nieces, with

with whom we would most likely play cards that very evening.

We were now got to the gate of the episcopal Palace, were announced and ushered into a large saloon, tolerably well furnished, and hung with crimson damask, where there was already some company assembled. After some time, the Bishop came in, preceded by three young Ecclesiasticks, and followed by his two nieces; the company paid their respects, and we were presented and received with great cordiality; many questions were asked concerning our travels, how we liked the country, and about the war in America? of which the Bishop seemed to have the most confused ideas; after much ceremony and time, salvers of dry sweetmeat and glasses of water were offered to the company, after which some bad tea and coffee were handed about; these being removed, the card-tables were placed; the Bishop requested Lord Freeman to draw a card for his own party,
com-

composed of the Governor, who had just then come in, and his youngest niece; on drawing for partners, the niece fell to Lord Freeman's share, and the two old Gentlemen were beat hollow the first rubber, with which the Lady seemed so pleased, that she insisted on not drawing for partners for the second, during which Lord Freeman thought it was time to correspond with some gentle squeezes he had felt repeatedly upon his toes, while playing the first rubber, but would not then venture to make the smallest motion till he could assure himself they proceeded from the Lady, and not perhaps accidentally from one of the two Gentlemen on his right or left; by casting his eye unperceived under the table, as they began the second rubber, he saw the Lady's feet stretched out very well towards his own, and had no more doubt of the part he was to act, and the play now went on both under the table and above it, and the two young persons came off again victorious;

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at the third rubber the Bishop insisted they should draw for partners, which being done, the Lady drew Lord Freeman, and the two veterans again attacked them with no better success than before.

I played at another table, and had the honour of the other niece for my partner the whole evening, in which we played only two rubbers, and came off victorious also; our opponents, one of whom was an Officer, and the other a Judge, dressed in his gown, with a large cross at his breast, took up much of our time in abusing, and finding fault with each other's play; and during their altercations, I observed, that they gave each other the lye direct repeatedly, without the least appearance of offence on either side, or of any emotion of surprise among the spectators, who were numerous.

It was now time to retire; the Bishop seemed very gracious, and the two Ladies, who had been both successful, appeared

very happy ; Lord Freeman's partner thanked him for having aided her so effectually in winning two broad pieces from the Governor. The Bishop, himself, on our taking leave, attended us to the door, assuring us, he would pay us his respects in person, and offering us, in a long string of common-place compliment, his Palace, himself, his Cathedral and every thing else he possessed, all at our service and command.

On our return home, Valéré told us very frankly, that, had it not been on our account, he would not have driven away so much of his time among a set of people, whose kindest wish to him was, that his throat were cut ; I observed to him, that it must then be an uncomfortable feel to live among such people, in which he assented heartily, and added with a sigh, that he could give us such an account of his situation as would appear almost incredible ; that, had he been an Englishman, he certainly would have blown out his own
brains,

brains, with half the provocation he has had to do it ; but, that the consideration of an infant family, entirely dependent on himself, was what had chiefly restrained him. Lord Freeman then informed him of the dumb intrigue he had commenced at the Bishop's under the table, and asked him, if all the women of quality of the country were of such facility of address in matters of gallantry? The Frenchman laughed heartily at the recital, and said, that in that way also he could relate to us such adventures—that gallantry in Portugal required great skill, patience and address; that it was dangerous, by no means on the part of the Ladies, who of themselves are the best and the kindest creatures imaginable, but on account of the jealous eyes of male and female Arguses, with which the object in question is, to her infinite regret, constantly surrounded; for the mothers well know, by experience, that this is the best security they can have for the preservation of their

daughters virtue ; but that on such occasions, when the unmerciful knife was once unsheathed, it seldom returned to its scabbard without doing mischief ; that intrigue here was as different from the same thing in Paris or London, as the two greatest opposites, and must be as differently managed : here we were called to supper.

The next day we were on the Glacis at the time appointed ; the first Regiment of the Garrison was drawn out and waiting for the Governor ; the uniform was new and well put on, it was blue turned up with scarlet, with a white cape and orange-coloured cuffs, a white waistcoat and yellow breeches ; such, it seems, was the late Count la Lippe's taste in the composition of uniforms : Soon after the Governor appeared, preceded by all the Staff Officers of the Garrison on horseback ; he was himself mounted on a fine capering horse, with a full-pique saddle, rising six inches above the seat before, and as many behind, with large embroi-

embroidered furniture, adorned with long gold fringes and tassels; he was followed by two servants with two led horses, and two other servants mounted also, with saddle-cloths having his Arms embroidered on them, exposed and suspended over the left arm of each; there was likewise a large cloth portmanteau, of the colour of the livery, stuffed full, and with his Arms wrought upon it, fixed on the saddle before each servant; when the Governor approached the line, he was received with presented arms, with the three ruffs, and the colours dropped; the exercise then followed, and the manœuvres, which were performed with tolerable exactness.

The Governor returned to his Garrison in the same parade with which he had issued; and we rode with Valéré round its environs, as well as those of Forts St. Lucia and la Lippe. As we were riding about, I am surprised, General Valéré, (said Lord Freeman to him) that, situate as you ap-

pear to be in this country, you have not the finest Army in the world; a fine climate, you certainly have hardly any conflicts with the elements, like those we are daily exposed to in our Northern regions; your men, as you tell me, are well cloathed and appointed, then what should possibly prevent their being always in excellent order? Alas! my Lord, (said Valéré) did you ever hear of an Army without Officers, or can a single Regiment or company be said to exist without them? here again you bring me into a field, it is not in my power to traverse over with you now; you know the Governor and some of the principal Officers of the Garrison dine with me to-day, it is time for us to wait upon them. Before you leave us, I hope to be able to satisfy you on every subject we have yet touched upon, mean time what presses most must be first attended to: on saying this, we all returned to the Garrison.

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The Bishop was this day likewise of the party, Mr. de Valéré having requested that honour of him the preceding evening; the company met about one o'clock, the usual hour of dinner in this country; Valéré had an old French foldier in his service for many years, who was an excellent cook upon occasions; this man was set to work, assisted also by his master's own directions, and sent them in a dinner much beyond every thing the Bishop or the Governor could produce; the *fricassées*, the *petits pâtés* and the piquant sauces of a delicate *haricot*, and a dish of fine red-legged *perdrix aux choux*, tickled their palates most agreeably, and obtained the highest encomiums. As the Portuguese, in general, live very abstemiously, excepting in the affair of sweetmeats, that may be one reason, when they sit down to a real good dinner, that they eat without mercy, as it happened on the present occasion; the Bishop and the Governor ate like a couple of ploughmen, and D.

John like a monster. Mrs. Valéré did not appear, though she was within hearing; Valéré had some dozens of old Burgundy in his cellar, and thought this was a good occasion to produce them; he therefore ordered a bottle of it to be set upon the table, near each of the guests, giving us beforehand a hint of his intention: at dinner Lord Freeman filled his glass, and drank to the health of the Governess, Valéré and Don John supported him, and the Bishop could do no less; the same was severally repeated to the Bishop's two nieces, the Englishmen's politeness was acknowledged by their drinking at the same time with us; all was now mirth and conversation, and the Burgundy had visibly dissipated the cloud which uniformly lowered upon the Bishop's brow; he filled his glass and drank to the health of the King and Queen of England, immediately after which a general discharge of the artillery of the Garrison was heard; as soon as it was proper afterwards,

wards, Lord Freeman filled his glass to the brim, and, standing up, drank to the health of the King and Queen of Portugal, in which the whole company joined, and another discharge of the artillery followed; Don John talked this day, as well as laughed excessively, and called vociferously for more wine; he, the Bishop and Governor all enquired of Valéré, from whence he had his wine? for such they had never before tasted; they were no less inquisitive concerning his cook, praised his dinner extravagantly, and wished they had such wine and such a cook of their own; like children who desire to possess every thing they reckon valuable, which they see in the possession of others.

The desert and coffee being over, the Bishop and Governor both declared they had never ate and drank so much, and seemed vastly pleased, but desired their carriages might come to the door, for that they also never had more occasion to sleep the festa.

Before

Before he took his leave, the Bishop insisted Lord Freeman and the rest of the company should dine with him the next day; the Governor consented, provided they all dined with him the day following. Things being thus settled, the company separated.

We now proposed visiting the City of Badajòx, at three short leagues distance in the Spanish Estremadura, the Garrison of Campo-mayòr, the field of battle of the lines of Elvas, fought in 1658, with every other situation, according to the plan we had laid down, and which John Carlos had hitherto been so active in helping us to execute. Upon communicating our scheme to Mr. de Valéré, he insisted on accompanying us, and approved much of such an idea; we all rode to Badajòx next morning early, returning to the Bishop's to dinner.

The same evening, Valéré told us, that, to convince us how much he was disposed to forward and assist our military researches in this country, he would indulge us with
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the perusal of a paper in his possession, of great value, both on account of the character of the writer, and particularly of the subject matter it treats of, so interesting to whoever shall in future be charged either with the attack or defence of the land frontiers of Portugal: In fact, this paper was no other than an authentic copy of a memorial of the Campaign of 1762 in Portugal, composed for the King, by the late Marechal General Count la Lippe, who commanded the Portuguese and English forces, acting on this frontier, against the united forces of France and Spain, who were at least five or six times their number.

We greedily ran over the whole manuscript that very evening, and after retiring to our bed-chambers I had began to copy it, but would not proceed without Valeré's permission, which we requested and obtained the next morning as we again rode out, testifying to Mr. de Valeré at the same time, our unfeigned sense of the weighty obligation he had now laid us under—With this
copy

copy in our hand (said Lord Freeman) we will now visit Valencia d' Alcântara and all the frontier to the Tagus; we will examine the famous pass of that river at Villa Velha, with the grounds which General Burgoyne occupied; we will go over those rugged and barren mountains the Marshal General describes so minutely; we will go as far as Almeida, and, if we have time, even to the banks of the Douro, where General O'Hara opposed Count O'Reily's entrance into the Beira on that side. My dear Valéré, (added he) it is not in my power to tell you how much you have obliged us.

We had gone that morning to visit the Garrison of Campo-mayor and the frontier between that and Elvas, which is all interesting ground, but were obliged to return sooner than we wished, on account of the Governor's dinner: I hate these great dinners of ceremony, (said Lord Freeman) they break in upon the whole day, and run away with a great deal of time, misemployed

ployed in guzzling and grimace, or at best in idle vague discourse about Fidalgos, or Nuns, or bull-feasts, or shooting the wild boar; all which appear to me so tedious and impertinent—now, my dear General, (continued he) before we go, you must favour us with your own ideas of the past and present state of your Army, since you have known it, as you gave us room to hope you would do; I am so much the more desirous of this, as I have every reason to believe we shall not meet with another Officer in the service, who can satisfy us so completely on the subject.

Mr. de Valéré replied, that he hoped we would give him credit for his good will to oblige us, from what he had already done in that way, and he was resolved not now to stop short; to-morrow, he said, we had no engagement abroad, that after riding in the morning, we would dine quietly together, and he would give us some detail of his own adventures, in which he might say,
a pret-

a pretty good account of the Army was necessarily interwoven ; and he assured us, every information he gave us should be dictated by truth and impartiality, let praise or blame fall where they would ; and that for the greater certainty, he would confine himself to what fell within the compass of his own practice and experience.

The great dinner at the Gôvernor's being got through, that very evening when we retired, Mr. de Valéré told us, that as it had been impossible to shew us the inside of the Fort la Lippe, which was so well worth our observation, he would make up that loss to us after the best manner in his power ; he then produced for our inspection all his papers of the plans of the same ; the elevations, sections, and profiles of the whole from the great cistern below, to those of every other part ; that of the gallery which runs round under the covered way, the *galleries d' écoute*, or whispering galleries ; the detached works and the branchings of
of

of the mines; the scouring and flanking guns, mounted so as to plunge down the mountain, at all the accessible places; the quick methods of undoing the barracks and parapets, and of forming new batteries with dispatch; that of raising the guns at the faillant angles, so as to traverse in any direction at the moment of firing, with the method of lowering them for loading immediately after; his hand powder-mills for making any quantity of powder on any emergency, from the materials kept in store ready for use; with many other instances of the Count la Lippe's ingenuity, as well as his own, in the construction and defence of this important fortress, which, I am assured, is the only thing in this kingdom really deserving the name.

We were charmed with Valéré's condescension, and no less edified by the perusal of what he laid before us; I copied Count la Lippe's memorial of the campaign, and returned Mr. de Valéré his copy the next forenoon

forenoon after riding, with many expressions of thankfulness.

After dinner and a dish of cooling coffee, Major General Valéré gave us an account of himself, almost from his boyish days to that moment ; which you cannot expect in this epistle, as it already much exceeds the usual bounds. Adieu.

LET.

LETTER XI.

Castel Branco, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER.

WE have been busily reconnoitring all about this frontier, with the Count la Lippe's memorial in our hands, and, as military men, have been highly entertained; though I fancy the few poor peasants we met, would not find it easy to guess the reason two foreigners with a Priest, could have for scrambling upon bare rocks, and through a barren country only inhabited by goats, as we have been constantly doing for above this fortnight past, and slept last night, though at this advanced season of the year, in our cloaks *a la belle Etoile*, without feeling the least bad consequences,

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such

such is the favourable climate of this country ; and having seen what we wished for here, I believe to-morrow, or the next day, we shall set forward for Almeida. But as I think Mr. de Valéré's account of himself is really an interesting relation, so much the more so, as I am certain, a great part of it is true, and I firmly believe the whole, though it is impossible for me to ascertain the truth of that part of his adventures which happened before he arrived in this country : I shall endeavour to give it you before we leave this place, not knowing what other occupations we may have at Almeida. I must, on account of its length, send it in separate packets, which you can put together after receiving them, in case you think it worth while to keep these letters any where apart in your cabinet. I shall now proceed to the account in the General's own words, as nearly as a translation will permit, in which I shall be faithful

ful and nearly literal; and I may very properly stile it,

The History of MAJOR GENERAL DE
VALERÉ.

“ I ought to be so much the happier (said the General) in giving you some account of my life, especially since I came into this country, and my opinion of it, at least with regard to the Army, as it is not likely I shall ever have such another opportunity of being useful to your countrymen, few of them ever coming this way, and to say the truth, still fewer of them appearing endowed with that share of affability and willingness to improve by travelling, without which it is of no use, and their labour and expence are entirely thrown away; and here, Gentlemen, I am serious, and do not mean it only as a compliment, when I tell you both, that the sensible manner I found you had adopted, in asking questions and

gathering information, by industriously laying yourselves out for it, and despising no assistance offered you, was what at first engaged me in your favour, and a farther acquaintance with you, served to confirm me in the same disposition; I have therefore made it a point, to give you every aid I could, and this copy of the Count la Lippe's memorial I look upon as an essential one, whether we consider it with regard to the helps you will draw from it in surveying this frontier with a military eye, or as a fine performance, well deserving the perusal of every military man.

“ Be that as it may, if the example of my sufferings, and of the abominable usage I have met with in this service, can be in any manner useful to instruct others in the nature of these people, or to deter them from trusting their fortunes, or mispending their time among such a worthless race, it will be particularly so to the natives of Great Britain, where political and commercial
connec-

connections with this country, being closer than those with France, or any other country, so a greater number of Officers from the British service has been employed in this; every one of whom, I will answer for it, repented and still repents his folly, in suffering himself to be seduced by appearances, into such a disagreeable situation; it is indeed true, that those of them who had it by any means in their power, have left us and retired, especially since the commencement of the present reign, as since that period particularly every base and sinister method has been practised to disgust them; so that I believe there are hardly six Officers here now, who were ever in the British service; some of those you will probably meet with in your travels, and most of them are really Officers of capacity and merit.

“ But to begin with myself—I am a native of Amiens in Picardy, and had my military education at the school of la Fère, then di-

rected by the greatest Professor at that time in France, I mean the late Mr. Belidor, of whom you must have heard, and who had such an opinion of my small abilities, that he scrupled not to recommend me to the late celebrated Marshal de Saxe, then running successfully his career of military fame. I was admitted into his family, and had the singular advantage of performing my first military services under his eye and direction; and, I may say, without vanity, I had as fair a prospect of advancement as perhaps any other young French Officer, who had no fortune but that which depended upon the point of his sword. At the end of my second campaign, which was that of the battle of Dettingen, when, as usual, the French Officers asked permission to go and divert themselves at Paris, I begged some weeks leave to come to Amiens to visit my mother, reduced to a state of widowhood during my absence, and an only sister, whom I dearly loved. I had

not

not been long at home, when I was given to understand by hints and surmises of our neighbours and acquaintance, that the Baron de Romenil, then a Captain of a Regiment quartered in Amiens, had been taking improper liberties with my sister's name; that he had made her frequent visits for some time before, but had now discontinued them: I taxed my sister with it, and she frankly acknowledged it was true, that she thought him the most amiable of men, that he had made her the most honourable proposals, but that very lately and all of a sudden, he had entirely discontinued his visits to her, without assigning any reason, which gave her the most pungent uneasiness.

“ Fired with this information, I immediately sent a cartel to this amiable Baron, telling him that the nature of his connexion with my sister was such, that he must either engage immediately to marry her, or to meet me the next morning at the

place I appointed him ; he agreed to the latter part of my proposal : we met, and I left him on the *carreau* ; I came home, and packing up my portmanteau, repaired to my master, the Marechal de Saxe, who was at that time at Dunkirk, superintending the preparations for an expedition to Scotland, in favour of the Chevalier de St. George, but which never took place ; and I told him the affair exactly as it had happened. The Baron's relations were in the mean time making close enquiry after me, and even applications from very respectable parties were made concerning me to Marechal de Saxe himself ; who, finding I was likely to be brought into danger, and having a great regard for me, dispatched me privately to Paris, with a proper letter of recommendation to the then Secretary at War, who sent me with the commission of Sub-engineer of the Garrison of Port Royal in Martinico, to St. Maloes, where there was a large vessel at
that

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that time loaded with provisions and stores of all kinds, ready to sail for that colony; I reached the vessel a few days before she sailed, and found considerable difficulty in getting my passage till I produced Government's letters and orders I had for the Captain General at Martinico. The great cabin and state rooms were already occupied by above twenty young women, who, as is usual in France, had bound themselves to go as apprentices or servants to the colonies for a stipulated number of years, and I was obliged to put up with a small birth the Captain offered me in a temporary round-house he had made for himself on the quarter-deck. We sailed from St. Maloes, and as the ship was large and well trimmed, and the weather good, we had a pleasant passage across the Bay of Biscay. The young women were frequently on deck, especially on an evening, and as I was then young and gay, and played a little on the violin and German flute, you
may

may suppose we soon scraped acquaintance ; and as there was scarce another man on board who had the appearance of a gentleman, I soon had more of the ladies company than I desired : but, as among so many it was impossible to remain without forming some attachment, I readily distinguished in Mademoiselle de Joinville something which made me prefer her to all the others ; she was young, and very beautiful, for a Frenchwoman, had a modest and insinuating air, which almost all the others wanted, who, it was easy to discern had been low-bred creatures, and of very irregular lives, as their practices with the sailors soon evinced. For my part, as I attached myself only to Miss Joinville, I was soon, with a little flattery and courtship, admitted to her most intimate friendship, and to a share of her bed in one of the state-rooms. But our happiness was of short duration ; for as we approached the bluster-

blustering Cape Finisterre, a sudden squall carried away our maintop-mast and part of the bowsprit. Imagine yourselves in a storm at sea, and in the midst of twenty females who had never before been on salt water, retching to death and terrified with their situation! We continued to be buffeted with stormy weather till we made the Rock of Lisbon, when the Captain declared the necessity of going into that harbour to refit before he could proceed on his voyage.

We were but a very short time in the harbour, busily employed in refitting a little below the Castle of Belem, when a report of the female cargo we had on board reaching the Exchange and other parts of the city, we had a number of visits from the shore of French Gentlemen, of Dutch, English and Portuguese Officers, Merchants, Knights of Christ, Priests and Fryars, of all colours and habits; and the eloquence and industry of these Gentlemen was surprising,

as

as well as the art they had of so quickly conciliating the affections of our ladies; for some of these began to disappear in a very few days after the visits commenced. Our Captain, who like a fool, had bound himself to deliver the ladies safe at Marti-
nico, the danger of the seas only excepted, took the alarm, and applied to the French Consul-General for assistance. Accordingly, centinels from the shore were planted on the gangways, and guard-boats round the ship, but all in vain. Jupiter descended himself to the lap of Danaë in a shower of gold; and by the help of only a very little gold dust in the eyes of Portuguese centinels, who were then naked, and who looked more like scare-crows than soldiers, our ladies descended nightly into the boats, which came from all sides to fetch them. I did also all I could in assisting the Captain to prevent these nocturnal elopements, but to no purpose. The Captain one night received the stab of a knife in the back of his
hand,

hand, which had been aimed at his belly, and swore he would never risk his person more for such jades, wished they were all at the Devil, and declared he would never more take such a villainous cargo on board. In fact, the night following that accident, every one of them was gone, excepting only Miss Joinville, who testified her utter disapprobation of the infamous conduct of the others, and told me she would never leave the ship while I remained in it, and so far she kept her word,

When our ship was surveyed, to examine what repairs would be wanting, it was found she had not only suffered by the storm considerably in her masts and rigging, but that it was also necessary to heave her partly down in the water, in order to get at some seams below the bend, which had opened with the working, and through which she made water. I was very active in lending all the assistance I could, which the Captain acknowledged.

Our

Our visits from the city ceased with the cause of them ; only the Captain of a Portuguese Man of War, which was moored a little above us in the river, would sometimes come on board of us in his barge, to see how our repairs went on, and was indeed so kind as to lend us caulkers from his ship ; but as this Gentleman could not speak French, he brought with him as his Interpreter, another young man, an Officer, who spoke it tolerably well ; this person visited us daily till our repairs were near complete ; and, as the Captain and myself were engaged in different employments, the young man would walk the quarter-deck, especially when he observed Miss Joinville there, to whom he always behaved with the greatest politeness and respect ; nor had we the smallest reason to suspect that any thing but common civilities passed between them ; a few days before we were to sail, our Captain received
a card

a card from the Captain of the Man of War inviting him, Miss Joinville and myself to dine with him ; he brought me the card, saying at the same time he could not go, having so much to do on board ; I also wished to excuse myself, but Miss Joinville was desirous to go, saying she had never been on board a ship of war ; the Captain declared absolutely against her going, unless I would accompany her, adding, that as by her behaviour hitherto she had proved herself to be a person of honour, he would not risk her out of the ship, without a person he could depend on along with her ; on seeing this I accompanied her, and we were perfectly well received, entertained and conducted back to our ship ; soon after this, when every thing was prepared for sailing, and on the day immediately preceding, which was a Sunday, the Captain of the Man of War with the young man came on board of us in his barge, and asked
the

the favour of our company to dine with him on shore, at his house near a village which he shewed us in the country, situated on a high ground about a mile from the beach, and where we should see a bull-feast in the afternoon, and he would, as usual, conduct us safe back in his own barge in the evening; our Captain again excused himself, saying he would by no means leave the ship, now every thing was ready for sailing, that he should certainly drop down to the Bar by midnight's tide, and get over if possible then; Miss Joinville seemed very desirous to go, and I confess, I wished to see a spectacle quite new to me, and of which I had heard so much; and having, as I thought, every moral certainty of returning to the ship as usual, I had not upon that score, the smallest scruple in going: when we landed, we found two carriages ready to receive us, the two Gentlemen got into one, and Miss Joinville and myself into the other, which had directions to follow them;

them ; we travelled above an hour, as fast as the mules could put feet to the ground, and then stopped only to take fresh mules and drivers, which were ready in waiting for us, and these we changed once more before we stopped for good, which was not till past three in the afternoon ; the carriages drove into a court-yard, surrounded with a very high wall ; Miss Joinville was conducted up a long flight of stairs without the house, and two men carried me into a sort of cellar or vault, where I was confined and civilly treated for about three months, not a soul speaking to me the whole time ; at the end of which, I was one morning very early awaked and conducted to a chapel in the house, where a Priest was saying Mass, and I was told, as well as I could understand them, that if I would there take an oath upon the holy Evangelists, never to mention the circumstances of my imprisonment, which, they assured me, had all been contrived by the young Lady I came in

company with, I should immediately obtain my liberty, and that if I would not agree to what they proposed to me, they observed—‘that dead men told no tales.’

“ I thought myself exceedingly fortunate to get off at so cheap a rate, and agreed to every thing they exacted of me; they then gave me a piece of six thousand four hundred Reis*, hand-cuffed and hood-winked me, and put me into a close chaise, which drove hard for two hours, and then stopped for near ten or twelve hours more, as nearly as I can guess, for I fell asleep, and did not awake till I found the chaise again in motion; the next time it stopped I was taken out, my hand-cuffs were taken off, and the cloth taken from my eyes, when I found it was dark, and my conductors left me, wishing me a good night. At daylight, I found myself upon the quay of a small river, which runs before a town called Sacavem, two leagues above Lisbon.”

* The most current gold coin in Portugal, equal at par to one pound sixteen shillings sterling.

What

What is your opinion, my dear Charles, of the above recital? has it not very much the air of a Novel? yet, I assure you, I believe every syllable of it; and I have no doubt that things equally as extraordinary happen often in this country, as well as in Spain, without ever being brought to light; every thing relating to love, or to connexion with the sex, is here conducted with mysterious secrecy; and the spirit of taciturnity (which, I am convinced, has been forced upon the Spaniards by the horrid severities of the Inquisition, and is not natural to that nation) helps also to veil every other deed of darkness, and prevents its reaching the public eye. You will, I dare say, be anxious to know the sequel; and that I may not keep your curiosity in a state of unnecessary suspense, I will dispatch another packet to you as soon as possible. Till then, adieu.

LETTER XII.

Castel Branco, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER,

GENERAL Valeré was proceeding, when Lord Freeman asked his pardon, for interrupting him in so interesting a narrative, to express his satisfaction at finding verified, in the instance before them, what he had so often looked for in vain; which was every circumstance of a well-imagined Novel or Romance, realized in the narration he made of all the matters of fact which had happened to himself. Young John Carlos observed, that, in conscience, the General ought not to have considered himself as bound by the oath they extorted from him in the Chapel, which he was compelled

pelled to take by the imminent danger his life was otherwise exposed to. The General answered, that the most pressing business, after he had obtained his liberty, was to think of his own subsistence and self-preservation; and that, if he had been really desirous of exposing to the world the base and cruel treatment he had received at his first setting out in this kingdom, it was not till many years after, and that he was settled in life, he himself had been able to pry into the bottom of the mystery; that the principal actors were at this time dead and gone, and that to publish their names now, could be of no sort of service to him, and would only draw down upon himself the displeasure of their relations and descendants, who had it even now very much in their power to hurt him. After we had all consented very heartily to the justice and reasonableness of what he said, the General continued his relation as follows:

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“ Here

“ Here I found myself exactly like a man dropped from the clouds, neither knowing from whence I had come, or whither to direct my steps, with a rusty uniform, and the same shirt for above three months on my back, without any sort of paper or document to tell who I was, or to engage any compassionate person I might meet with, to hear my story. My situation was much more abandoned, than from the levity of my disposition I at that time apprehended, and I really think it was better for me that I made so light of it: however, I readily found my way to Lisbon, and indeed very soon learned the language of the country; and found a number of idle, lounging fellows in the Lemonade-shops, who, for a glass of that liquor, conversed with me as much as I desired, and gave me much information; by their means I found my way to the French Ambassador's, and got speech of his Maitre d' Hotel. I was beginning my story to him, when,

when, casting a supercilious look at me, he asked me if I brought any papers with me, or letters of recommendation? I told him I had not; and was about to inform him of the reasons, when he told me I was an Adventurer; and, if I dared to appear any more there, he would have me taken up and sent to the Gallies; and turning on his heel, wished me a good afternoon. Returning to the Lemonade-shop, as vexed at this disappointment as a Frenchman could be in my reduced circumstances, I found the discourse of the company assembled there, turned much on a young Nobleman who had returned from Paris a very short time before, whom they all praised excessively, of the name of Don Luiz de Portugal, a near relation, as they said, of the Royal family, and that he had teeth as long as those of the Prince*, that he would

* Then Prince of Brazil, and the late King Joseph, who died on the 23d of February, 1777, and was remarkable for having very long fore-teeth.

speak only French, and loved every thing belonging to the French nation; and though they agreed that he had obtained his Majesty's leave to travel under the pretext of consulting the French physicians at Paris concerning the cure of the Gallico†, yet they believed he had brought much more of it back with him, than he had carried out. On the strength of this information, I resolved to wait on him and offer him my services, for my cash was by this time quite gone. I was accordingly next morning introduced to his Excellency at his chocolate, he asked me twenty questions in a breath; whether I understood Arithmetic, Drawing or Mathematics, Fencing or Dancing? to all which, when I had answered in the affirmative, he took down a fiddle and desired me to walk a Minuet while he should play. I told him I could play myself at the same time; and did so.

† The venereal disease, and by much the most universal distemper in Portugal.

As soon as I had done, he took me in his arms, and seemed transported; expressed how sorry he was, that being under previous engagements to several French Gentlemen, who had done him the honour to accompany him from their own country in the character of humble attendants, it was not then in his power to entertain me, as he earnestly desired; but, he told me, he would instantly give me a letter of introduction to his own cousin the Viscount of Rosmaninhal, who had been enquiring anxiously of him for a French Gentleman to inspect the education of his only son and heir, as he was morally certain I was exactly the thing he wanted: accordingly I got the letter, delivered it, and was immediately received into the family.

“ To enter into the œconomy of a Portuguese Nobleman’s family would carry me too far; however, something I must say to explain my subject: It is always more numerous than splendid; a swarm of useless
clients

clients and dependants, being once attached to the family, it is considered as ipso facto, under a sort of obligation to feed and support them, from father to son, or by its interest to provide them suitable establishments in the world, and to marry off the daughters to the best advantage : Her Excellency the Viscountess of Rosmānhal had above twenty female attendants, all sequestered in one part of the house ; nearly the same number of men servants, of different ranks and employments, was entertained in or about the family ; as a special favour, I dined with the Steward and the Viscount's Clerk or Secretary ; all the others were on board-wages, or had rations served out to them, and there prevailed in the family every exterior appearance of decency and decorum ; but in fact, it was one continued scene of private gallantry and intrigue ; the general rendezvous was every morning in the Chapel, where there were daily

daily four or five Masses celebrated by the family Chaplains, besides accidental ones by other Priests and Fryars, who visited or confessed in the family ; the language and intercourse of the lovers was unintelligible to all but the parties immediately concerned ; it was a toss of the head, an eye cast up, or thrown down, to the right or left, the fixing a bouquet, or the pinning of a flower or ribband of such a colour to such a part of the head or breast ; nay, the very throw of the long cloak over the shoulder, and the particular manner of doing so, conveyed the hieroglyphick of their wishes, their intentions and assignations : Indeed it could hardly be otherwise, where a number of idle and healthy young men and women were assembled under the same roof, without any other moral or religious principle of restraint but the fear of being discovered ; and stimulated the more by the notion of the difficulties opposed to the gratification
of

of their desires, they will quickly counterfeit the appearance of every virtue to accomplish their ends; and with a little suppleness and address, it was not long before I was initiated in this mysterious intercourse. I had got into the good graces of the Viscount's Secretary; and this person advised me, that, if I wished to make my way to any civil employment, or to the army, my only channel was by marrying one of her Excellency's favourite maids, and I would be quickly provided for; as for teaching my pupil French, or any thing else, it was a thing entirely out of the question; his mother would never permit him to apply to, or do any thing he had not a mind for; so that his whole time in the morning was spent in conversing or playing at cards with the lacqueys in the stables, and in the afternoon he dressed in his uniform, and rode about through the city, went to the bull-feasts, or did whatever else he liked best. I was perfectly idle, and wished by almost

almost any means for a commission in the Army; I had scraped a particular acquaintance with one of the gravest of the Lady's attendants, called the Aya*, a very handsome woman, and still in her prime; she smattered a little bad French, and under pretence of improving it, I was frequently admitted to her conversation; we soon came into the practice of the family, and commenced a piece of gallantry, which was carried as far as either she or I could desire. She told me, after we were become very intimate, that she had an exceeding great regard and friendship for me, and that if I would agree to marry her daughter, a very fine young girl, and also an attendant in the family, she would undertake to get me a Captain's commission in the Viscount's own Regiment. I had already seen her daughter, and excepting the circum-

* Properly a Governess or Directress, but in the general acceptation of the word, it is something between that and an humble friend, or first or upper Servant.

stance

stance of her being so, had no objection, and this I proposed to her when we next talked on the subject; she answered me, by saying, she did not apprehend I was inclined to be so squeamish; that, indeed, I was disposed 'to drown myself in very little water†;' that surely, if she had no objection, I ought to have none, to become as intimate with her daughter as I had been with herself; that there was no necessity for her daughter's knowing anything of our connexion, which might be carried on the same after marrying her as before, without causing the smallest suspicion. I temporized with this woman, (who was passionate in every sense of the word) and begged time to advise with my relations in France; in this she acquiesced, provided I continued to be her gallant, and during this time the effects of another piece of gallantry between her daughter and my friend the Secretary,

† A common Spanish expression.

became

became too visible to be any longer concealed ; and the Viscount and Lady made them marry, by which means I got out of the scrape.

“ I had on different occasions the honour of conversing with the Viscountess herself, who, excepting the absurd predilection she shewed for her son, and which made a beast of him, really appeared to be a good, well-meaning Lady ; and I took an opportunity of mentioning to her the great desire I had of serving in the Army ; and whether she had been informed of the proposal her Aya had made me some time before, I know not, but she herself made me exactly such another, in favour of another young person of her attendants, for whom she expressed the strongest regard, the same old woman you see in the house with me now ; I married her, and got myself out of that base domestick sort of life.

“ I was now a Captain, and wore a white uniform ; but as I received no sort of appointments

pointments till above two years after I had got my commission, my wife and I were fain to avail ourselves of the friendly invitations of the good Viscountess to dine in her family, as often as should be agreeable to us; and being scarce ever called on to do any duty, I went often abroad into the city, and made some acquaintance which were afterwards of use to me.

“ There were then a few loose companies denominated of Artillery, composed of old coblers, invalids and other trash, who were so much despised that nobody would serve among them, who had interest to be placed any where else; but as I always had affected that branch of the service, in consequence of the excellent lessons I had from Mr. de Belidor at la Fere, I easily obtained a change to one of those companies, being sensible that if there should ever come a call for an Army, the necessary improvements in that corps, must be greater than in any other

other of the Army, and of course I should have a better chance for preferment.

“ Year rolled on after year, the Army still neglected and daily growing worse, the Officers dying out, and none appointed to replace them, so that many Regiments came to be commanded by Subalterns or non-commissioned Officers. The only use King John the Fifth made of his troops was to dig and carry the stones to build a magnificent Church and Convent, for three hundred idlers at Mafra*; but if he abused or neglected his Army, in compensation he established the holy Patriarchal Church of Lisbon to vie with that of St. Peter's at Rome. Here are twelve Principals, to represent the twelve poor Apostles, and seventy-two Monsenhors, in imitation of the

* Built by Don John the Fifth, in imitation of, or competition with the Escorial in Spain, but falls in every thing exceedingly short of it: It stands about six leagues North of Lisbon. During the late reign, three hundred Capuchin Fryars were removed out of it, to make room for the Regular Canons of the Order of St. Austin.

same number of Cardinal Princes of the Church, a noble Choir, composed of chosen Italian *Castrati*, with every thing else suitable in dignity and expence ; to support which, that pious King, seconded by a Bull from Rome, seized one-third part of all the church-livings and benefices of the kingdom. At last, this falacious Monarch, endeavouring to supply by art, what nature now refused him in the pursuit of his promiscuous amours, fell into a lingering disorder, and finally died like a Saint in 1750.

“ Now came the new administration of King Joseph and of the Marquis of Pombal, from which we all expected miracles, but the Army did not improve, a jot by it : The Minister began by establishing his own authority, by imprisoning and otherwise ruining his predecessors in office, and promulgating laws for the reformation of abuses ; but alas ! what avail the best laws, the execution or non-execution of which depends upon the breath of a despot ? As soon as possible,

possible, he let the church-men feel they were not to be supported as they had been; and having an altercation with the Inquisitor-General about the publication of a book, he had him and his brother (both natural brothers of the King) sent to prison, and a third brother removed from Court and sent Archbishop to Braga, where he still remains. He was not so immediately successful in a dispute he had with the King's Confessor, a Jesuit; this haughty Priest telling him, to look well to himself, and take care how he meddled with his Company, for that it never died! On which the Minister turned to him, and gave him his word of honour that it should die, and many years after he kept his word.

“ All this while, the soldiers were naked, begging charity in the streets, with a monstrous string of beads in one hand, and a ragged hat in the other; their arms, when they had any, were all over rusty and without locks; a pitiful law or regulation

concerning the Army sometimes appeared, but it meant nothing, and was not even executed when the tremendous earthquake of 1755 shook the kingdom to its centre, and made us believe the dissolution of Nature was at hand ; and here it is but justice to say the Minister acted with firmness and resolution.

“ While the pusillanimous and frightened Nobility deserted their Prince, the Minister supported and inspired him with courage ; and, by the necessary severity of his orders, readily executed on that emergency, he in a great degree eluded many fatal consequences which would have followed that terrible disaster, and confirmed himself in the exclusive possession of his master’s whole power and favour. Soon after this, when he was busy in rebuilding the city, the shameful conspiracy of the principal Nobility against the King, and their ill-conducted attempt upon his life, furnished the Minister with an opportunity he was resolved
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to improve, of humbling their insolence, and making them lick the dust, to which he knew they wished to see him reduced : a year after followed the expulsion of the Jesuits, the natural consequence of three of their principal men having been the ringleaders of the conspiracy : finally, came on the war in 1762, which produced new scenes, and a considerable change in the Army, still languishing in misery and neglect.

“ The nature and conduct of the campaign of 1762, in this country, will appear better from the memorial of which you have a copy, than from every thing I or any body else can say of it. As to myself, I had a full opportunity of laying my whole story before the incomparable Count la Lippe, as soon as he came to this country, who heard me with patience, and immediately gave me the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, with the double appointments ; for, however incredible it may appear, I

had till then contrived, with a young family, and without getting into debt, to subsist upon Captain's single pay, equal in your English money at par exactly to two pounds sixteen shillings and three-pence per month. The Marshal General also charged me with the command of the Portuguese Park of Artillery, which was sent to the Army; and the opportunities I had of being known to him during the campaign, ingratiated me with him so far, that when he came to make his new regulations for the Army after the war, he charged me with the formation of a new Regiment of Artillery in the garrison of Estremòs, to supply this and all the other frontier garrisons of Alentejo with Artillery-men, really instructed in their duty.

“ I was now in my element; the men were clothed and regularly paid, and did their duty like good soldiers; and this is a piece of justice I must do the Portuguese peasant, for no man on earth makes a better soldier,

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or is easier to be commanded, or more willing to obey, provided you gain his good opinion, which you are sure of, if you do your duty, and behave gently to him. In my line of duty, I had no connection with any other superior than my adorable Marshal General, and was happier than an Emperor while he remained in the country, which he did till September 1764, obtaining for me the rank of Brigadier-General before he left it.

“ But, that great Officer’s back was hardly turned, when the whole Army, and myself in particular, experienced a reverse of fortune; the execution of Count la Lippe’s excellent regulations soon began to relax; the Minister, who never loved the Army, issued a little after, laws abrogating many of them, and destructive of their effects, and the whole Portuguese Officers seemed of one mind in wishing to abolish them, and to return to their former indolence and sloth.

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“ The excellent Count la Lippe laboured always under a gross mistake, with respect to the manners and morals of this people, for he thought it was possible to make good Officers of them. Now, as no man was more thoroughly convinced than he was, that, (besides, at least some degree of military knowledge, which they totally wanted) to form an Officer, the necessary qualifications of truth, candour, probity and honour, were indispensable; with all which, he consequently did not suppose the Portuguese to be so entirely unacquainted. Indeed, from the short spaces of time he remained among them, and more from his elevated station, and from the natural duplicity of this people, especially in their dealings with so superior a Personage, it was next to impossible for him to come at their true character. Most of the Foreign Officers who remained in the service after the war, as soon as they began to experience

rience all the meanness of the national character, avoided any farther, than duty obliged, having any sort of connection with them. To those who commanded Regiments, of which number I have been since the middle of 1763, this was impossible; for we have been under the necessity of dealing with a variety of ranks and denominations; and I am sorry to pronounce, from a course of uniform experience, that I have never been able to discover the smallest traces of probity, candour, disinterestedness or honour in any part of their conduct.

“ Still, however, till the Count la Lippe's first departure for Germany, I had no reason of complaint as to my own particular; the Officers of the Regiment did their duty; and as they had been all advanced to the posts they occupied by my means, I thought I had no reason to apprehend they would have any bad intentions towards me: The
old

old General at Lisbon, to whom we had orders to address ourselves during the Marshal General's absence, had scarce a shadow of authority reposed in him; he durst not even grant leave of absence to a Subaltern without consulting the Minister, who could never find time to attend to any thing concerning the Army. The pay, the cloathing, and other current necessities, were not remitted to the Regiments with the same order and regularity; the Courts-Martial on deserters and other criminals sent to Court for approbation, were never returned or taken notice of, and the culprits remained for years rotting in prison; no vacancies of the Officers were ever filled up. I had recommended the eldest Captain of my Regiment for the Majority, vacant by death, as I had found him a man of some knowledge, parts and activity, at least comparatively among a set of people who knew nothing. This man informed me, that there was a party in the Regiment calling

balling against me, headed by the Chaplain; the several Subalterns and two Captains formed the party, and were mainly instigated by a Serjeant, whom he named, who had drawn out articles of complaint against me, and a memorial to the King, in the name of all the soldiers of the Regiment, with which none of these were acquainted; that they had already remitted the same articles and memorial to Court; and of all this he gave me such proof, as left me no room to doubt its authenticity; adding, that as he knew every thing they alledged was false, and he was under particular obligations to me, he thought it his duty to inform me of it.

“ I took no other notice of this information than by watching the conduct of the Serjeant in question a little closer, who being to my own knowledge a bad character, and having been slightly punished for misbehaviour a little time before, had be-thought himself of this method of being revenged:

revenged: accordingly, as he soon after gave me another very fair opportunity of chastising him for irregular conduct, I broke him, and put him in the ranks; and on abandoning his post when centinel some time after, I ordered him to be flogged next day at guard-mounting, according to the express words of one of our articles of war: a few days after the same fellow deserted, and, to say the truth, I was not sorry when informed of it.

“ In about a month after this villain’s desertion, I had however occasion to hear of him with a vengeance; the Governor, the same old man we have here now, receiving a letter from the Minister, commanding him to reprimand me in the severest manner, for the irregularity of my behaviour to that man, late a Serjeant in my Regiment; ordering that he should be immediately reinstated in his post, and all those honours restored to him, which I had unjustly deprived him of: at the same time

most

most secret circular letters were written to the Commanding Officers of all the other Regiments, to inform them of this transaction, and directing them to take warning from the premises, how they ought to behave to their inferior Officers."

The measure of my paper is already more than full, therefore I must here break off; by next packet, I hope to conclude my account of Mr. de Valéré, though I foresee I must curtail or omit a number of interesting details he mentioned.

Adieu.

LET.

LETTER XIII.

Castel Branco, 1773.

DEAR BROTHER,

THOUGH I was obliged to break off in my last abruptly, not to make each letter I send you so excessively voluminous, you are to suppose Mr. de Valéré went on with his narrative, and that even so quick, that it was as much as I could do, with the help of short-hand, and of no bad memory, to keep up with him.

“ This glaring piece of injustice and insult (continued Mr. de Valéré) set me almost mad; and what increased my misfortune was, that I had neither power to resent it, nor prudence to dissemble and conceal
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my dissatisfaction. It seems the infamous Serjeant had been formerly a favourite servant and procurer for his late Excellency Don Luiz da Cunha, then Secretary of War, to whom the fellow had told his story of my treatment of him, as best suited himself; and the Don had gone open-mouthed to the Minister with the tale, demanding competent satisfaction; for you must know, that in this country, it is the universally established practice, and, I may safely add, the most wicked and ruinous, that when a Nobleman or other person in authority, once takes even the most infamous rascal under his protection, he considers his own personal honour and character as then pledged to stand by him, to support and bear him through, right or wrong; so that the question turns no more upon whether such a profligate deserves chastisement; but whether it be prudent and safe to expose yourself to the resentment of a wrong-headed and revengeful man in power,

by

by doing your duty? This was the mistake I fell into, and thus laid myself open to such a furious rebuff; for though the Prime Minister really confided so little in Don Luiz, that he did not permit even any circumstance of his own department of the War to pass through his hands, yet, as he saw the worst consequence of affronting me, would be my quitting the service, of which he made very little account, so he was willing not to disoblige the Don for such a trifle as that of doing me justice, by first enquiring into the truth of what had been represented to him, and therefore proceeded as if he implicitly believed what the other had told him.

“ The vexation and fretting this incident occasioned me, brought on a brain-fever, which reduced me very low before it left me; neither should I have come to myself again so quickly, had not my recovery been accelerated by the news we then had of the Marshal General's returning to the kingdom,

kingdom, as he did towards the end of 1767, when he passed through this place in his way to Lisbon, having come over land. I laid before him the state of my own Regiment, and indeed of the Army, as far as it came within my knowledge, I also reported to him the behaviour of the Court to myself: that matchless Officer shook his head, said the Army was going to wreck, because the Minister would have it so, that he had on many occasions behaved disingenuously to himself, and that he had come to visit the Army then, much more with a view of supporting appearances with respect to the world, than from any hopes he had of doing any essential good; that, however, he would make it a point to have justice done me, and to reinstate me in the good graces of the Minister. I took this opportunity of recommending to his notice the eldest Captain of my Regiment, that he might be appointed Major of the same, because that Officer had not only improved considerably

in those parts of the Mathematicks and Calculation, necessary for our exercises, but was of use in keeping clear and exact accounts of the pay, bread and cloathing of the Regiment; having found him hitherto diligent and assiduous in his duty, and in the execution of whatever I had charged him with. I was so much the more interested in supporting the pretensions of this Officer, as I knew an English Colonel in Lisbon, lately made Inspector of Artillery, was violently opposing his promotion, purely from a pique he had taken against me, on account of our differing in opinion with regard to some trifling parts of our practical exercises.

“ Soon after the Marshal General's arrival in Lisbon, a camp was formed in that neighbourhood, consisting of fourteen thousand men of the best troops of the kingdom. I was sent for to command the Artillery, and presented by the Marshal General to the Minister, who appeared very gracious.

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Some of the great manœuvres were tolerably executed; and every thing was done to keep the Count la Lippe in humour for the short time he was to remain among us: this he felt himself, and hastened his departure, which was in March of the following year. I ought to have informed you, that soon after the Marechal General's arrival in Lisbon, the English Inspector of Artillery, differing with him also in some points of discipline, threw up his commission and retired. I got the rank of Major General, and a commission appointing me Chief Engineer and Director of the Works of the Fort la Lippe, which I have finished since that time; a pension was granted to my Wife, my eldest Captain was made Major of the Regiment, and the Marechal General on his departure recommended me strongly to the protection of the Minister.

“Immediately before Count la Lippe's departure, the Marquis de Pombal gave

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him

him his honour that one-third part of the Army should be ordered to encamp near Lisbon regularly every Autumn, for the purpose of manœuvring, and for the King to pass them in review ; and before he left Court, had actually named the Regiments which were to encamp the two following seasons ; however, after having taken, as he thought, every step to ensure the execution of a measure so well calculated to keep up military discipline, it vanished into smoke ; for no such encampments ever took place.

“ Exclusive of the ruinous effects of tyrannical usage, of bad company, education and example, which certainly will go far towards rendering men abject, sordid and contemptible, I am convinced there is something I do not pretend to account for, in the inherent composition of the blood which runs in our veins, and which we derive from our parents, which certainly has a wonderful

wonderful influence in constituting the good or bad qualities of our sentiments and dispositions, and consequently upon the moral actions of the individual; but why the characteristic bias of this nation in general should be so decidedly turned to insincerity, wickedness and fraud, in which it seems so far to have taken the lead, appears perfectly unaccountable; unless we admit, what indeed cannot reasonably be denied, that the great accession of Jewish blood it acquired during the reigns of Don John the Second, of Don Manoel, and of his son Don John the Third, by the expulsion of the Jews from Spain, and the forced conversions wrought upon such numbers of them as at that time sought an assylum in this country, has entirely vitiated the national character; and what renders this misfortune so much the more deplorable is, that the families of rank and distinction are those which have been most directly and

immediately affected and contaminated by this contagious participation.

“ This remark will not appear misplaced, but rather necessary to account for the baseness of their behaviour, as well in those instances I have already mentioned, as in others I shall have occasion to refer to before I conclude this narrative ; neither are you to imagine that I am singular in the misfortune of commanding a Regiment the Officers of which are for the most part composed of knaves of various denominations ; each Regiment is but an epitome of the national character, and there is not one in the service which cannot furnish similar instances of the same depraved and worthless disposition.

“ But to return—As soon as our encampment was over, and the Marshal General had for the last time left the kingdom, I went with my Wife to Lisbon, to kiss the Minister and his Lady's hands, and to thank them for all favours received ; and
this

this I afterwards found was so necessary a step, that a neglect of it would most likely have been fatal to us. I delivered into my new Major's hands the commission I had procured for him, for which he professed the greatest acknowledgments and personal attachment. I was now not dissatisfied with my situation, as I had been strongly encouraged in the prosecution of my duty by the Count la Lippe, and by the Minister himself, who, in a conversation I had with him, signified to me pretty plainly his own opinion of his countrymen, and that the best way to recommend myself to the King, was by pursuing the right line of my duty, without minding their cabals. In doing this, I was under the painful necessity of using severity with some Officers, who paid too little attention to what was prescribed to them.

“ Soon after, I found my reverend Chaplain again caballing, now joined by a more numerous party, all of whom I had made

it my particular business to serve and oblige; the Chaplain had even obtained leave to go to Court to exhibit his complaints against me, and to bring with him two worthless subjects he named, to make the depositions, which he, as a churchman, it seems, could not do. I took no notice of what was going on, and on this occasion the Minister condescended to do me justice, though in a very irregular way, for, on hearing their story and taking the necessary informations, he quickly saw the falsehood and infamy of their accusations, and sent me orders to break all the three, and turn them out of the Regiment, without farther ceremony. I begged they might be regularly tried by a Court-Martial, and sentenced according to the articles of war, but my request was disregarded.

“ Mean time every thing respecting the Army declined and relaxed; those Officers who had any notion of doing their duty, were totally discouraged and disgusted, by
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seeing no sort of promotion take place: Some Regiments were without a Captain, others without Field Officers; the Portuguese Officers, envious of the Foreigners, who had double pay, and seeing things falling back into the old channel, went to their usual work of defamation and traducing of characters, by every underhand and infamous means; Court-Martials without number sat and were remitted to the Minister, who never looked at one of them, nor decided any disputes which arose among the Regiments, which were thus fomented and increased, by idleness and indecision.

“ My new Major had for some time been soliciting me to procure a Subaltern’s commission for his son, which I had declined doing, as I knew he was by no means a character to do honour to my recommendation: and I now remarked, that he insisted in a more preremptory manner upon this, after he had got his own of Major, than he had ever done before, alledging, among other things

things, that even supposing his son did not possess all the merit he could wish, yet I ought to attend to his own services, and to his incessant labours for years past in the business of the Regiment. I told him that for his own services he had been rewarded by my means, in the most honourable manner an Officer could aspire to, and that to reward a worthless son for the merits of his father, though that was a doctrine long established in this kingdom, yet it was too absurd and gross for any man of sense and probity to swallow, and that I should certainly never adopt it. He replied, that if such was my resolution, I might henceforward look to myself, and for his part he would do the same.

“ This was a declaration of war, as I soon afterwards found ; and this abominable Son of Belial had possessed resolution enough to play the counterfeit for so many years, to be diligent, active and honest, with

with the Devil in his heart, till he had obtained his promotion, which being every thing he had to expect from me, he thought it was now high time to give a loose to his natural infernal disposition. The Quarter-Master of the Regiment, who received and paid the subsistence-money, and who, I knew neither liked the Major, nor was liked by him, came to inform me, that the Major had joined a cabal of Officers and inferior Officers, which he was fomenting against me with accusations of not delivering out the cloathing due, as well as other articles he knew to be equally false. This I made no account of, being now accustomed to have my ears dunned with such villanies; however, I ordered him to deliver out a good quantity of overplus cloathing I had in store; so that, so far from wanting, the Regiment was furnished with cloathing in advance for a much longer time than that for which I had received it from the Arsenal of the Army in Lisbon. He told me likewise, that my Major had falsified

falsified some parts of the chief Register-book of the Regiment, which I had trusted to his care, and then made of the same falsifications articles of accusation to Court against me. I made as if I did not believe him, but, on inspecting the book soon after, I found it was so; I therefore thought it was but prudent, at any rate, to take it out of his hands, as well as not to trust him any more with the æconomical direction of regimental affairs, which made him so much the more venomous.

“ Some time after this I had occasion to go to Lisbon on some private business, and the villain’s conscience suggesting to him I had an intention of representing him in his true colours to the Minister, followed me, without obtaining any leave whatever. As soon as I was informed of this, I reported it to the old General who commanded in Lisbon, who sent for him, reprimanded and ordered him back to his Regiment; and directed me to put him in arrest as soon

soon as I returned thither, and report it to him, which I accordingly did. While in Lisbon, I accidentally met the fellow on whose account I formerly received so severe a reprimand, whom the Marechal General had ordered me to dismiss from the service; and he was now in a wretched situation. He told me he had been to beg a little charity from his old patron D. Luiz da Cunha, who, seeing him now abandoned, told him he was a rascal, and would give him nothing. From pure compassion, I gave the wretch a small piece of gold; at sight of which, with tears in his eyes, he fell on his knees, and asked my pardon for all the mischief he had endeavoured to do me, and said the only satisfaction he could now make, was to deliver me a number of letters which he produced, of correspondence he had with my precious Major, who had invited him to be his agent at Court, in giving in his memorials and preferring his articles of accusation against me

me. These letters I took and brought with me to the Regiment.

“ The day after my arrival I sent my Quarter-Master with my receipts, as usual; to the military Treasurer of the province here, to receive the monthly subsistence for the Regiment, which he did; but instead of paying it out to the companies, he deserted, and went off to Badajòx, in company with some Spanish Strolers, who had been acting here. Fortunately, I was well acquainted with the Spanish General of Estremadura, to whom I wrote; the deserter was seized, and most of the money found upon him, and returned to me; but, according to the Concordant between the two kingdoms, his person could not be sent back, though this was what I most wished for, and he was set at liberty.

“ A considerable time passed, and no notice taken of the repeated entreaties I had made to have my worthless Major removed, at least, out of the Regiment, where,

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in the idleness of his arrest, he was doing more harm in fomenting discontents, and vile underhand intrigues, than if he were employed in the service. In the mean time I received a most friendly letter from the Count la Lippe in Germany, inviting me to spend the ensuing Summer with him there, where he had established regular military schools, both of theory and practice. I readily accepted the invitation, obtained leave, and went over land, visiting in my way the old scenes of my younger days at la Fère, Metz, and Strasburgh, where I still found some old acquaintance, though after an interval of so many years.

“ I passed the Summer with that dignified military philosopher the Count la Lippe, with all that heart-felt satisfaction which every Officer must enjoy, who knows how to improve such a fortunate circumstance to his own advantage, and to become both a better foldier and a better man. Returning through Holland, I embarked

barked at Rotterdam, and arrived at Lisbon, where I found the old General who commanded there, had been sometime dead, and General Maclean, a countryman of your's, appointed in his place; I waited on the Minister and General, delivering the letters I brought for them, and was perfectly well received. In a few days more I was informed that the Quarter-Master of my Regiment who had deserted, was in town, busy in forming complaints against me, and acting in concert with my Major, with whom he had formerly always been at daggers-drawing; some time after, I met him in the street, seized him, sent him to prison, and found on him the whole series of his correspondence with the Major, and such a collection of wretched absurdities and lies, varied into all the different sorts of villainy, was surely never formed: I laid the whole, with the Major's other letters I had in my possession, before the General, who reported it to the Prime Minister, and
they

they both assured me they were very glad I had laid hold of the villain, and that both he and the Major should be made examples of. I now assured myself I had got to the end of this vexatious business, by having at least the two incendiaries removed out of the Regiment, as had been so often promised me ; but General Maclean took no farther account of it ; and as for the Minister, he was too busy to mind such trifles.

“ You may suppose, that, during this whole time, the Army being entirely neglected, was approaching fast to ruin. According to every information I could obtain, General Maclean’s character, as an excellent veteran infantry Officer, was sufficiently established, long before he came into this service ; this however is certain, that while he commanded in Lisbon, his only and evident view was to flatter the Minister, and preserve himself in his good opinion ; and he knew he could do this by no means so effectually, as by neglecting

his duty. All the Regiments were in the same state of apathy and universal relaxation; full of little dark cabals, intrigues, and heart-burnings; and continued so to the moment of the late King's death.

“ I had remarked, in perusing the correspondence between my Major and Quarter-Master, that these two traitors often mentioned the name of the Marquis Angeja, now the Prime Minister, as a person to whom they had frequent access, who patronized their cause, and animated them in their proceedings against me; but I could not bring myself to believe that a Nobleman of his rank would, without the smallest provocation on my part, disgrace himself by basely interposing in favour of two of the most pitiful villains that were ever held up to public scorn and contempt; this I remarked to General Maclean at the time, on occasion of a social conference we had together, giving him my opinion as above, and I well remember his answer to me, which

which was, that with all the experience I had acquired in this country and the acquaintance I had with the Nobility, he thought I had not yet reached the extent of their true character, nor knew how much they in their hearts disliked Foreign Officers.

“Accordingly, when King Joseph breathed his last, on the 23d of February, 1777, and the Administration fell into the hands of the Marquis of Angeja and the Church, I soon had occasion to be convinced of my mistake; for whereas, till that time, the contemptible state into which the Army had fallen, proceeded chiefly from indifference and neglect, (causes sufficient to ruin any Army in a very short time) so now the present Government, as if not satisfied with the wretched condition in which they found the troops, seemed to take an active part in dishonouring and disgracing the very being and existence of a soldier. It appeared presently that they had adopted the maxim of

ridding themselves of Foreign Officers, as quickly as possible. The Queen also, from mistaken notions of what she reckons piety and mercy, released indiscriminately all the malefactors of the different Regiments, whom the Marquis of Pombal had suffered to starve and rot for years in the prisons, under sentences of Court-martials, and, pardoning them all, either restoring them to their Regiments, or sent them to serve abroad ; all which behaviour, though abominable, was, in my opinion, nothing when compared to the more direct influence of the present Minister, in favour of the two worthless Officers of my Regiment who still remained in arrest ; for the Governor here received an order, in the Queen's name from the present Secretary of War, to release the Major and Quarter-Master of my Regiment, who, he said, had been unjustly confined by their Colonel, who had never made any report of the same, nor assigned any reason for confining them.

And

And here you will remark, that in order to find a pretence for the enlargement, the Secretary of War is made to advance in the name of his Sovereign, a most notorious falsehood; for in every monthly return, for years before to that moment, the confinement of these two men was regularly reported, as well as the cause of it, which all the world also knew by a variety of other information. Thus I found, to my cost, what the two traitors mentioned in their letters, concerning the countenance they received from the Marquis of Angeja was true; they enjoy it still, and are now doing duty in the Regiment.

“ Judge then, Gentlemen, what a situation I must be in? and what interest I, or any man of feeling or honesty can now have in such a service? For my own part, I am totally indifferent about it, as I am now old, I shall endeavour to rub through in the best manner I can, and any hole will serve a man to die in.

“Whether I have satisfied or entertained you by my relation I know not; only this I am certain of, that I have told you nothing but the truth.”

I leave you to think in what terms we acknowledged our obligations to Mr. de Valéré, for such an interesting account; and I again repeat Lord Freeman's observation, that its peculiar value consists in being literally matter of fact, of which we all have the fullest conviction. My next to you will probably be from Almeida, for which place we set out to-morrow morning early.
—Good night,

LET.

LETTER XIV.

Porto, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER,

WE are at last arrived here, as I hope, to rest for some time, after going over such an extent of rough and mountaneous country, and at such an advanced season of the year. The banks of the river Douro are prodigiously strong on both sides, and a small body of men properly employed on one side, might baffle the efforts of an Army to cross it from the other; the river itself is sunk between its high and steep banks, covered with vine-yards, which furnish the wine you drink in England under the name of Port; but which is so different from

what you drink of it here, in the possession of the people who make it. The Douro, like the Rhone, is violent and rapid in its course, with few or no meanders; and, as is the case with all torrents when provoked and swelled with the rains, especially of the vernal equinox, it becomes often fatal to the shipping in the harbour of this city.

Notwithstanding a good share of fatigue I have gone through, I think I have every reason to be satisfied with the trip I have taken round the frontiers of this country; were it for no other reason than the acquisition of so valuable an acquaintance as Lord Freeman. I can have no reason for being disposed to love and regard him, but such as I distinguish in his personal merit and accomplishments, and if that excellent young man has admitted me to his intimate confidence, I must ascribe it to his discovering in my sentiments and pursuits, a similarity corresponding with his own, on which account I have reason to believe we have
been

been mutually of use to each other, we are therefore less inclined to separate now than ever, and I hope soon to be able to acquaint you with the particular motives of his journey to this country: In the mean time, I shall here continue the account of our leaving Elvas, and proceeding in our observations, till we reached this place.

As soon as General Valéré had finished his narrative, as mentioned in my last, young John Carlos was the first to declare, that he had learned more that evening of the real character of his countrymen, than he had been able to collect by observation during his whole life. Mr. de Valéré said, that, not to overcharge our memory with too much matter at once, he had been as compendious as possible, but that he would give us letters for other Officers we would meet with in our travels, who would not fail continuing to us the same sort of information; for, that the same national character produced every where equal or similar effects. John Carlos replied, that it was
a disgrace

a disgrace to any society, when such a vile character as his Major was permitted to exist in it; and yet, young Gentleman, (said Valéré) if you were to exterminate all such characters from the Portuguese Army, as it now stands, you would leave it nearly without Officers; but it is not so much of those wicked and abandoned dispositions I complain, as of the support and countenance they every where meet with. If the Portuguese Nobility, and men of rank, General Officers, and commanding Officers of Regiments, were but half as industrious in discountenancing and despising Knaves, Slanderers, Pimps, Parasites, Catamites, Thieves and Murderers, as they are every where assiduous in discovering, cherishing and protecting such an infamous race, we should quickly see a noble and universal change: For instance, I have known numbers of them in my presence, condemn the conduct of my Major, and bestow on him every dishonourable epithet,
his

his treachery and ingratitude deserved; and very soon after I have seen them hugging the same man, in high glee and conversation with him, asking him to their houses, and admitting him to every degree of friendship and sociability. Now while there exists in the nation a number of persons of high rank and influence, whose conduct will always be copied by inferiors, and who can reconcile such abominable behaviour with the principles of honour, I leave you to judge of the consequences.

It was by this time growing late, and as we had disposed every thing for leaving Elvas the next morning, we begged to have supper soon, and it was immediately served. We took an opportunity of thanking Mrs. Valeré very kindly for her hospitality: the General delivered us a few lines of introduction to some of his friends in Almeida; we assured him, we had not words sufficient to do justice to the sense we entertained of his friendly behaviour, as well for
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the personal information he had afforded us, as for what we had gathered from the perusal of the papers he had favoured us with; and that no distance of time or place should ever erase the acknowledgment of his kindness from our memories.

The next morning we left the garrison of Elvas, and employed above fourteen days successively, in visiting all the posts, grounds and situations, mentioned in the Count la Lippe's memorial of the campaign of 1762, undergoing much fatigue in travelling over such a rugged and barren country, and coming into miserable villages and hamlets, where, often we could not find so much as a bit of bread for ourselves, nor forage for our horses, though we found the peasants every where civil and ready to oblige us, and to serve as guides to wherever we wished to go. In our difficulties we found our best way was to address ourselves to the Curate or Vicar, wherever we found one, and by
his

his means and the intervention of a little money, any thing that could be had was provided for us.

At last, after examining the interesting grounds on both sides the Tagus, particularly the famous Pass of Villa-velha, we arrived at the town of Castel Branco, where we rested some days, and from whence my last letters to you were dated, after which we continued our route by Penamaçor, Sabugal, Covilham and Alfayates, to Almeida, for the most part through a rocky, barren country, especially as we approached the garrison. On arriving there, we were conducted as usual from the Barrier to the Officer commanding in the place, who happened at the time to be walking on the parade; a tall, stout, surly-looking man, of a Mulatto colour, who asked us in a haughty tone, what was our business there? we replied, that we had letters for the King's Lieutenant: He told us, he was gone out with some of his
country-

countrymen on a shooting party a few days ago, and he did not know when he would return. Lord Freeman was so dissatisfied with this sort of reception, that he would not remain a moment longer in the garrison, though it was then rather late.

Following therefore the road which leads northward to the Douro, we passed under Castel Rodrigo, continuing our journey till it was quite dark, when it became necessary to stop in a small poor village, our cattle being by this time entirely knocked up: we found our way however, to a wretched Inn, where we housed our horses, but no sort of provender for them, nor of eatables for ourselves were to be had; we separated, as we had done on former occasions, to search through the village for bread and wine, or any thing else we could procure. It happened that John Carlos in his ramble, espied a white house somewhat larger than the others,
with

with a stone stair on the outside; he knocked at the door, when it was opened, he entered into a sort of large hall, where he saw a table set out with several covers, ready for supper. John Carlos blessed himself at the sight! asking whose house it was? He was answered it was the Curate's, but that he had lent it for that night to the King's Lieutenant of Almeida, who was in the next room with some other company; John begged to be introduced to them, which, as soon as he was, and had told them his story, they all set out to search for Lord Freeman and myself in the village, and having found us after some time, we returned to head-quarters, where we had a plentiful supper, which was most acceptable to us, and tolerable accommodation as to beds.

The next morning we were for setting forward to the Douro, but the King's Lieutenant would by no means consent to it, but entreated us to return with him to his garrison,

garrison, and favour him with our company for a few days, said, that if we liked shooting, we could not be in a better part of the country for our amusement, and as a further inducement, he informed us that two or three of our countrymen from a garrison in the next province, had just come to pay him a visit, and he hoped we should all make agreeable company together. We accordingly returned with them to Almeida, which we reached to dinner; after which we walked round the ramparts; and having visited all the garrison, found nothing new in regard to military matters after having seen that of Elvas. Two things only excited our surprise, one was to observe the great distance at which the Spaniards had raised their nearest battery, at the siege of Almeida in 1762, with which they however made a sort of breach, but this they could not have done, had they met with any opposition. This battery was at above seven hundred yards distance from the

the point attacked, and as the besiegers were seldom incommoded by any shot from the garrison, they had all the time to execute their business which the formality of their proceedings required. The other was, to observe the awkward and obsequious submission, with which the ill-looking Officer who had received us so haughtily but the day before now attended us, on seeing the reception we had from his superiors.

I shall conclude this with a short sketch of a few of the characters we met with here, as I was able to pick them up in particular conversations I had with different persons of the company.

The King's Lieutenant of Almeida is a native of North Britain, an old and worthy Officer, who, after having served during the course of two wars in the armies of his own country, had been induced, like many others, to remain in the service of Portugal, where he has been eminently useful, till the death of the late King; at which

period, being dissatisfied with his situation, (as all the others were) he attempted to better it by returning to the service of his own country, but was unsuccessful. He was however so far lucky, that though a favourite of the former Administration, he is not at all disliked by the present. Such is the speaking candour and undefining uprightness of his character, that the present Premier, who, by all accounts, is the most designing, disingenuous character alive, believes, that if it be in the power of any man, unassisted by superior grace, to return good for evil, this Officer is the man; and his opinion of his fidelity and disinterestedness is so great, that for some time he entrusted him with the military government of the whole province of the Beira—Such is the quality of probity and goodness, that sometimes the most worthless characters, when in authority, find their own account in making use of them.

Lord

Lord Freeman saw into his disposition at once; for it was open as the day, without shadow of guile or deceit, and he loved and honoured him; nor was his esteem less for another Officer he met there, who had come on a visit from a neighbouring province of *Tras-os-Montes*; he was an Englishman, of the name of Saint Amour, of a humour considerably different from the former. He was a man of a clear judgment and comprehension, impetuous in his temper, and much disposed to rally and abuse the Clergy, the Nuns and Fryars, whose hypocritical and immoral manner of life furnished him with continual topicks of satire, and well-grounded animadversion.

There was another character among them not a little singular, an Hibernian originally, but he had long left his native country, of which he had very little remembrance; indeed almost the only *memento* he retained of it, was that which he

preserved strongly on his tongue. He still retained however all the resolute firmness of Irishmen; and after having fought to very little purpose in the character of a Gentleman Cadet in the Irish Brigades both of France and Spain, he passed over to this country at the breaking out of the war in 1762, and signalized his entry into this service by a piece of behaviour characteristic of some of our countrymen. It is so singular I must relate it to you.

Colonel Mackilphan, (which is the Gentleman's name) as soon as he arrived at Abrantes in June, 1762, where the Count la Lippe then was assembling the Portuguese Army with all the dispatch possible, the enemy having at that time entered the Frontiers, gave the Count such a satisfactory and military account of the movements of the Spanish Army, that he resolved to employ him on some small expeditions and reconnoitring parties, all which he executed in such a soldier-like manner,

as

as made the Count employ him on a service of more consequence. He had found all his endeavours to forward the formation of magazines and equipment of the Army, when he was so much pressed for time, traversed and frustrated, by the dilatoriness of the Paymaster-General of the troops, then also at head-quarters, insomuch that he had been obliged to represent his repeated misbehaviour and neglects to the Minister, requesting his removal, but without effect : the whole Army complained of his tardiness in making the respective payments, according to the orders he received from the Marechal General, insomuch that on one occasion, the Count had been so provoked as to inflict corporal punishment upon the person of his Paymaster-General, by kicking him down from the top of a flight of winding stairs in the Castle of Abrantes, on which occasion the fat puffing Paymaster tumbled or rather rolled like a butter-ball to the bottom ; and this

incident was as publickly known as it was applauded.—To return to Mackilphan—The Mareshal General soon after ordered a considerable detachment to be got ready, which he put under Mackilphan's command, giving him his instructions, and an order to receive from the Paymaster-General the subsistence for his detachment during the time they should be out upon command. Mackilphan presented the order, and was desired to wait a little, to which he gently replied, that his orders were of such a pressing nature as to admit of no delay, and urging again soon after to be dispatched; the Paymaster-General, (whose name was Duraô, and whose character was, to be as abject and fawning before his superiors, as insolent and brutal to all he considered equal to, or beneath himself) looking contemptuously at Mackilphan's uniform, which was still Spanish, and which he was not acquainted with, answered him roughly, 'that
he

he had then business of more consequence to attend to; and that he should be paid the money he wanted at the same time with the rest of the Spanish deserters.'—Colonel Mackilphan, in a rage, at such a piece of insolence, took one of the two pistols he always carried in his belt, and clapping it instantly to the Paymaster's forehead, drew the trigger, but it missed fire; however, frightened out of his senses, the Paymaster dropped under the table, and there was an uproar in the office. Mackilphan returned directly, and related the affair, exactly as it happened, to Count la Lippe, who told him he was exceedingly mortified that his pistol had missed fire. The Colonel said he had still another good flint, which he was certain would not miss, and that he would just return to do the Paymaster's business effectually. To this however the Count did not consent; but ordered an Aid du Camp with him,

who procured payment, and he was despatched immediately.

Such was Colonel Mackilphan's first entry into the Portuguese service, where Count la Lippe took him by the hand, and pushed him on ; and he has, on all occasions, behaved perfectly like a Gentleman ; no Foreign Officer having been more respected by the natives of all ranks, convinced that he never would put up with the shadow of neglect on their part, without calling them to account for it, in the manner they of all others detest and abhor the most. As a good Catholic, he has been particularly fortunate in ingratiating himself with the Priests, and by the interest and support of the Bishop of the diocese where he resides, he had, not long before our arrival at Almeida, effected an advantageous marriage with a young Heiress in that part of the country, so as to render himself independent of the service, and for that reason so much the more respected by the Ministry.

I may ,

I may add to the above, the character of another very worthy Gentleman of the same country with the King's Lieutenant, who has the rank of Brigadier in the Army, and is Colonel of a Regiment of Cavalry in the next province. In his disposition, I think, he resembles a good deal the Englishman; but is compelled to be more prudent, being entirely established in this country, and depending on it, having some time ago married a Lady of high rank and family in the same. This Gentleman, when a much younger man, had made himself remarkable in Paris, by an encounter he had there with your celebrated patriot Alderman Wilkes: and when he came first to Portugal, I am told, he was considered as a Tilter, or a *Bretteur*; but, a very little experience of the propriety of his conduct and character, soon convinced the world that he was as incapable of giving an affront,

affront, as he was of receiving it from any man.

As I was closing this I have just received yours, which I shall answer by the next opportunity. Till then,

Adieu.

LET.

LETTER XV.

Porto, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER,

WERE any of us disposed to estimate our felicity according to the goodness or badness of our living, we have as much reason to congratulate ourselves on our arrival here, as we have hitherto had to deem ourselves unfortunate on our journey hither. Monsieur Haudricourt, Lord Freeman's Valet, has been lavish in his curses on the country we have travelled through. But here the Christmas pies, the fat turkies, the fine sirloins, the jellies and creams of
all

all kinds, and every other delicacy are to be met with in abundance. The Foreign Merchants, especially the English, who are by far the most numerous, not only live in affluence themselves, and much better than the same persons would do in London, but the natives follow their example, and live much in the same manner; and I am assured, they mix and communicate more with the Foreigners here, than their countrymen do with those established in Lisbon, where, as being the Court, it were more natural to expect a disposition to urbanity and mutual intercourse.

But, be that as it may, we should have little reason, in my humble opinion, to regret the want of so many good dinners as we are asked to, while we possess so extraordinary and valuable a landlord as the Gentleman who insisted on our taking up our residence in his house, who is no other than the British Consul here, and the most enter-

entertaining companion I have met with any where. He is almost in every thing the reverse of his brother Consul at Faro, in the other end of the kingdom. If this was dumb, morose and pensive, the other is versatile, sprightly and communicative in the highest degree, and has a wonderful skill in adapting himself to all companies and languages he happens to meet with. If the Consul of Faro passed his life among the numerous Clerks he has in his Counting-house, and in attending to the concerns of a large family of children, his Colleague of Porto, living in a very large house, has no counting-house nor family to mind, and though far enough at present from being a young man, is still a bachelor, and his domestics consist of a withered old Portuguese beldam, past eighty, who makes his bed, lights his fire, and sends him in his breakfast, and a young Galician boy, who cleans his shoes, and brings him a powdered wig once or twice every day
from

from the nearest barber's shop. His library consists of a large and heterogeneous collection of books, which we visit and frequent at all hours, and I think we seem now to be more masters of the house than himself. When he insisted on our lodging with him, he swore he would find us in nothing but clean beds and breakfast; for as to dinners and suppers, it was the business of the city to find them for us; and indeed hitherto we have had more friendly invitations of that kind, than it has been possible for us to answer.

In the mornings, as is natural, we are generally inclined to read, and repair to the library, in size much more resembling a public than a private one. Our young Priest, John Carlos, indeed seldom leaves it, so delighted is he with the sort of reading he finds here, which is perfectly new to him. Amongst the first questions Lord Freeman asked the Consul was, if he could let
him

him have the use of a Bible? The Consul stared, and told him, it was really one of the last requests he expected to be made him by an English Officer! However, he carried us to a long shelf, where we found copies of almost all the editions which have been printed from Cardinal Ximenes's Complutensian Polyglot down to Dean Ryder's Family Bible. Lord Freeman said he was already pretty well acquainted with that invaluable book, but as his young companion John Carlos had never seen one, he was willing to introduce it to his acquaintance. There was something humorous and sarcastic in the very arrangement of the Consul's books. On the same shelf with the Bibles were to be found Sale's and Savary's Translations of the Koran, and *le Systeme de la Nature*, with Bryant's *Antient Mythology*, and Gebelin's *Monde Primitif*. On another shelf we found the Adventures of Don Quixote; on one side of him

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him was the Life and Miracles of his countryman Saint Ignatius of Loyola, and on the other a splendid copy of John Bunyan's Holy War, which was supported by a most voluminous Life of Saint Jago, or James, the great Apostle of Spain, who has been seen so often fighting on a white horse at the head of the Spanish troops against the Moors, as Castor and Pollux were seen fighting on horseback in the Roman army, when Aulus Posthumius the Dictator attacked Octavius Mamilius the Tusculan, at Regillus; among several volumes of the absurd and unintelligible jargon of the Thomists and Scotists, and other schoolmen, we found intermixed Doctor Beattie's Essay on Truth and Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding; and a large collection of what is reckoned by the Spanish and Portuguese Divines the best and gravest of their Lenten and Missionary Sermons, was contrasted by Bishop Tillotson's Works and by
Doctor

Doctor Blair, and Fordyce's excellent Discourses, which last I had never seen before; David Hume's Essays were posted close by the Works of Saint Austin, and the fiery and impatient Martin Luther was perfectly quiet in company with the zealous and declaiming annalist Cardinal Baronius.

But, besides the above, the Consul's library is well furnished with books in all Arts and Sciences, especially the mathematical, in which he is constantly dabbling, and has a large manuscript collection he has made, of problems and theorems of his own arranging or composition; in another well lighted room adjoining the library, stands a pair of the largest globes I have yet seen, and I think the wooden horizontal circle cannot be much less than four feet in diameter; these have been lately finished here under his own direction, for he keeps three or four ingenious artists almost constantly employed in his house. In the globes, he has made a variety of interesting

alterations and improvements, according to the most authentic modern accounts he could collect, as well in the celestial as terrestrial globe; in this last he has formed the oblate spheroid, with the diameter of the axis to that of the equator, as 177 to 178, the first being 18340 toises shorter than the last; he has inserted many new islands in the Pacific Ocean, and marked the settings of the currents in many different parts of the globe, not expressed on any other; and this he has been the better able to do by means of an extensive collection he has made of Voyages and Travels, and by comparing them together, for he appears to be particularly well instructed in the essential parts of great navigation.

From his library you ascend by a spacious staircase to a platform, covered with lead, which serves him for an observatory, with an apartment at one end of it containing a neat collection of instruments: From this place, the Consul assured us he
has

has often seen the planet Venus with his naked eye, in the morning above the Sun and to the westward of him, and as he supposed then in her Aphelion; and when he applied but a common glass to her, she appeared with one side brightly illuminated, like a beautiful ivory ball, suspended in the vast regions of space; so fine and clear is the atmosphere generally in this country.

It were endless to mention the variety of entertainment the Consul affords us; his dexterous contrivances of the *camera obscura*, and his ingenious methods of exactly copying every thing therein represented, his solar microscopes, and his apparatus for electrical experiments; this indeed, had twice before procured him the honour of a visit from the Commissaries of the holy Inquisition of Coimbra, urged thereto by the universal cry and prevailing opinion of the Priests and common people, that the Consul

was a Magician, who, by his art and the help of the Devil, drew the thunderbolts from the clouds into his own garden. It seems he had fixed a long bar of iron horizontally over his house, from one end of which was suspended an iron chain, the other end whereof reached down to a flower-plot under his windows, and here the lightning, running down the chain, on occasion of a thunder-storm passing, had sometimes made holes in the soft earth, and on one occasion a very large one, blowing all his flowers about, and this incident had made a great noise in the city. It happened, that both the Commissaries were men of some candour and reflection, who, comparing the Consul's established virtuous character with such a black accusation, could not help thinking it absurd; and, what was perhaps no less fortunate for the Consul, their visits happened at a time when the Inquisition, being entirely under the controul of
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the Marquis of Pombal, durst not take any step without his exprefs permission; the Consul received their visits respectfully, entertained them very politely, and, explaining to them the whole process of his experiments, the nature and qualities of fire, in a philosophical manner, but in terms they readily comprehended, he sent them away perfectly well satisfied, and enraged at the ridiculous accusations of their ignorant countrymen.

The satisfaction we enjoy in the Consul's company is very much damped, by the near prospect we have of losing it, for Lord Freeman is in daily, nay hourly hopes of a summons to Lisbon, and I shall certainly accompany him whenever he goes; his behaviour has been so uniformly and remarkably friendly, that nothing can exceed it; he has even gone so far as to trust me with the secret of his journey into this country, which is in substance the same with what

his Valet de Chambre had related to me, as far as that information went, but it was not till very lately that he himself informed me of the reason of our not repairing immediately to Lisbon. " On our arrival at Faro, (said he to me the other evening) the first letter I opened of those sent me from Lisbon, was from a faithful servant I have stationed there, which informed me, that soon after my leaving London, my dearest Donna Lucretia, preparing to set out for Lisbon, and happening to make a farewell visit to a family in Hammer-smith, where the small-pox then raged, had been suddenly seized with the infection, and had been even dangerously ill, but was then perfectly recovered ; in all which I was confirmed by her own letters, in which she acquainted me that she had been entirely covered with the ulcers, but that there had not remained the least mark on any part of her, in consequence ; that, as I well knew the little value she had always set upon that beauty

I had

I had affected so much to admire, so now the dear-bought experience of appearing before her glass as the loathsome disorder increased upon her, had taught her to hold it in still much less esteem; and to consider it as the most adventitious and precarious of all the gifts of fortune; that however decency and a proper respect for herself and for the world, required that she should keep to her apartments till the redness of the skin, occasioned by the eruption of the pustules, was entirely worn off, which the Physicians assured her could not be in less than two or three months, and therefore, to her great regret, I must not expect to see her in Lisbon before that time,

“ I made haste to answer her with every endearing expression of love, gratitude, and never-failing attachment, informing her, that as I was then on my way to meet her at Lisbon, I should employ the intervening time in making a tour in this kingdom, till I should be informed from Lisbon of her

arrival there, when I would make it my only business to fly to her feet. The time for her arrival must now be at hand, and I stand on the tip-toe of expectation, ready to set off at a minute's notice ; and I hope you will not deprive me of the satisfaction of your company."

I assured his Lordship, it would now give me sensible pain to part with him ; and that, while I remained in this country, I desired nothing so much as to enjoy the happiness of his conversation.

I must now answer your last short epistle, in which you inform me of our sister's marriage.

Had you, when you last wrote, received the letter I wrote you from Faro, very soon after my arrival in this country, I presume you would not have found it necessary to give me such an apologetical account of that transaction. I hope, however, you have received that letter before now ; for by it you will see how different
my

my sentiments, in matters which concern religion, are, from those you gratuitously suppose me to be governed by. The more I reflect upon the state of our infancy and youth, the more I am convinced that a good education is the greatest piece of good fortune that can happen to either man or woman, and more especially to the latter. In the former, a more extensive view of things, improved by reason and reflection, will do much towards rectifying his ideas, and rescuing them from that labyrinth of mistaken knowledge, in which a system of learned ignorance had led them astray: in the latter, even supposing the rational powers and the faculties of the understanding to be equal with ours, yet to know and do the right, they labour under many disadvantages we are not exposed to; their uniform and stationary manner of life deprives them of many opportunities we enjoy; and the absence of reason, or which is the same, the predominance of the passions,

ons, which is often mistaken for it, makes them adhere more obstinately to opinions once taught or adopted, without farther reflection, or admitting of comparisons, in matters especially which they are assiduously taught to consider as above their comprehension. Such persons, therefore, require the more immediate interposition of a father's or a brother's friendly care, to direct their steps in the greatest circumstance of their lives, I mean their establishment in the world by marriage; and though I am perfectly well pleased to find the person our sister has married is so much to her liking, yet I am much happier to know that he was of your choice than of her own; at the same time I must tell you, I think her lover's condescension to her prejudices, and especially yours, have carried you both too far in two articles, wherein you certainly should not have been so complaisant; and to which I must beg leave to enter my objections.

You

You must know, that both in Spain and this country, when a Protestant man intends marrying a Roman Catholic woman, the Pope's Nuncio is provided with powers from Rome to grant a dispensation, on paying for it, for without money Rome gives nothing; and every Protestant who marries in these countries, is therefore under the necessity of complying with this piece of mockery. But it is too ridiculous to submit to the same in England or Ireland, where marriage is what it ought to be, only a civil contract, and where any country Curate could have done the ceremony as effectually, to all intents and purposes whatever, without paying such an exorbitant sum for an imaginary dispensation from a particular Bishop of a far distant country, with whom we have no manner of connection; the complaisance therefore of a lover, in yielding to his mistress's prejudices and misplaced intreaties, is much more excuseable than
yours,

yours, and I am both heartily surpris'd and sorry you ever gave your consent.

But what shall I say to the other article; which is of a much more serious nature, and on which the happiness or misery of a distant posterity may in a great measure depend?

The many examples alledged of the same practice in other persons, make nothing to the point; or if they do, they ought only to serve as beacons upon rocks, to direct the prudent pilot to avoid, instead of steering for them; Nay, had the bridegroom only concluded his bargain exactly contrary to what he has done, much mischief might have been prevented; had it only been stipulated that the male and not the female issue of the marriage should be educated in the Popish belief, the boys would, for the reasons I mentioned above, have most probably atoned in due time, by a return to reason (as we have done), for the folly of their parents. But it is a provoking

voking species of cruelty, that innocent and helpless girls should, without any fault of theirs, at their first appearance in the world, be put into trammels and chains, which they must wear through life, and by that means entail the same sort of curse upon their innocent posterity.

I speak my mind to you freely and candidly, as I feel it dictated by Conscience, that awful and impartial guide; and I do it with the more confidence, as I am certain you are of the same opinion, which in the present instance you only dispensed with, out of condescension to the entreaties of a woman and a sister. But it should have occurred to you, that even such condescension has its limits, which it becomes dangerous to exceed, and that by resistance you would have secured the real and substantial happiness of numbers yet unborn; whereas by yielding, you have only gratified the childish and impertinent scruples of
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of a well-meaning and ill-educated individual.

Adieu, my dear Charles ; my next will contain some farther accounts of those worthy fellows we left in the Beira.—Good night.

LET-

L E T T E R X V I .

Porto, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

THOUGH I am careful in taking my notes and observations on whatever remarkable occurs to us here, for the subject of future letters, according to your injunctions, yet, before I proceed to them, it is reasonable I should first discuss the subject matter of what passed among our friends at Almeida, for whom we have retained a very particular attachment and affection; such as I think the strangeness of their situation must exact from every British subject of feeling and humanity.

Among such a variety of characters our company in Almeida was composed of,
amounting

amounting to the number of twelve persons, natives either of Great Britain or Ireland, and which remained together for near eight days on this occasion; our employments in the day-time were naturally various, and we were seldom assembled all together but in the evening at supper, when sometimes the social glass went round *more Majorum*: Some went a-shooting, as the country abounded in game; others attended the exercises of one or other of the Regiments, which were out every forenoon; others went to see the practice of the great gun, while the rest rode as far as the Town of Ciudad Rodrigo and Fort Conception in Spain. We found ourselves agreeably entertained all the time, and were even sorry when the company came to break up. The same tawny-coloured Officer, who had behaved so abruptly to us when we first came to the garrison, seemed now anxious, on every occasion, by his awkward fawning and obsequiousness, to apologize for
his

his former conduct, whereof we had informed the King's Lieutenant. This Gentleman told us, he was a poor, lazy, insignificant being, and had been appointed to that post in his Regiment by General Maclean, formerly Colonel of it, merely because he had a strong clear voice, to command at the exercises, without any other qualification whatever—Apropos, (said Lord Freeman) I was informed at Elvas, that both Generals Frazer and Maclean had tolerable appointments while in the service here? The other replied, that they certainly had; the former supported by Lord B—'s interest, to which the cunning old Minister at Lisbon found it, at that time, expedient to pay attention; and the latter owed his good fortune here, not to his military merit, which was very great, and of which they were not judges, but to his inimitable address in flattering the Minister, and rendering himself popular in the nation, by making them believe, as they really did, that he loved and respected them, whereas

no man ever held them in a more consummate degree of contempt: and these were the only two of all the Foreign Officers in the service, who could have made a better shift than the others to subsist upon the double appointments; and they were also the only two who, *speciali gratia*, actually received more than treble these appointments, while the greater number was left to do their best upon a limited subsistence indeed; whereof you will be able to judge by the State of Pay I shall mention, according to the ranks in the Portuguese Army; and on allowing us the double of that, you will judge how we are to subsist in a country, where living is generally more expensive than in France or Ireland, or even some parts of England. I mark the full and neat pay of each rank in English money, at the rate of 36 Shillings to 6400 Reis, and at this rate:

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
A Lieut. General has per month	28	2	0	} when employed, or on the Staff, o- therwise nothing.
A Major General - -	14	1	0	
A Brigadier General - -	12	8	1	
A Colonel of Infantry -	9	11	0	
A Lieutenant Colonel of ditto	7	17	6	
A Major - -	6	15	6	A Captain

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
A Captain	} of Grenadiers	4	10	0
A Lieutenant		2	5	0
An Ensign		2	0	6
A Captain	} of Infantry	2	16	0
A Lieutenant		2	0	6
An Ensign		1	13	9
A Grenadier or common Soldier		0	7	0
An Artillery Soldier	-	0	10	1

The Subalterns, non-commissioned Officers, and Soldiers have besides an ammunition-loaf daily, which for them is a very considerable article: and the Colonels of Regiments and Captains of Companies have not a shadow of a perquisite of any kind."

During this discourse, which passed as we were walking on the Parade, an Officer well mounted, followed by three or four servants, entered the gate near us, and on seeing the King's Lieutenant, who is also Governor, he immediately alighted, and coming up to him, there passed abundance of compliments, and expressions of kindness, friendship and services between them, after which the Officer took his leave.—

"We have been expecting this man from Lisbon for some time past, (said the King's Lieutenant to us) where he has been for a

long time soliciting, and has at last obtained, what he calls the restitution of his honour and reputation, which, he says, General Frazer had unjustly deprived him of. He is a man of some family, and of a very good provincial fortune, as fortunes go in this country, and had been Lieutenant Colonel in one of the Regiments of Cavalry in the next province, where Frazer commanded the troops, but of so restless and mischievous a disposition, so busily employed in little dark cabals, and in fomenting a spirit of mutiny not only in his own Regiment, but also through the whole garrison where he was, and at the same time so relaxed in his personal attendance on every sort of duty, under colour of sickness, private business, or many other pretences equally false and frivolous, that the General found himself under the necessity of having him dismissed the service, by representing to the late Minister, not the true, but the supposed cause of want of health, which rendered him unfit to continue in it :
and

and though he himself, the Minister and the General were all equally conscious of what was the real cause of his dismissal, (which was no other than his vile, seditious, ungovernable disposition) yet, no sooner had the present Queen got the government in her hands, than he set out for Lisbon, and representing a multitude of ridiculous falsehoods concerning General Frazer's behaviour to him, said he was also come to present himself, in order to convince her Majesty, that, with respect to bodily health, no man in the kingdom was in a better condition to serve her than himself; however, his real character was too well known also by the present Ministers, and all his manœuvres would have failed him, had it not been, that going one morning to pay his respects to the eldest son of our present Premier, he found him busy in examining some ancient coins he seemed to set great value on, and told him he had several curious ones in his possession, which he would bring to his Excellency the next morning,

which he accordingly did ; and after they were accepted of, he produced another bag containing one hundred pieces of five moïdores each, telling him, they were a curiosity, and an old coin of one of their own Kings, which he should never have parted with, had it not been to beg him to deposit them in his Cabinet of Antiquities, saying, that, as he had no such Cabinet of his own, they were of no use to him, but might serve to ornament that of his Excellency, and protesting, that if he refused to accept of them, he should consider it as the grossest affront that could possibly be put upon him.

“ In a very short time after this incident, it was discovered at Court, that our Gentleman had been cruelly used by General Fraser ; that he was a person of singular merit, full of fine health, spirits, and zeal for her Majesty’s service ; and in a week more he received the Queen’s commission, appointing him Colonel of the same Regiment from which he had been dismissed, ordering
every

every note or remembrance of such dismissal to be erased from the regimental books, and he is now so far on his way to take possession of his old Regiment."

We were now joined by several others of our company, and as it grew late, we adjourned to supper, which was our principal meal, as our dinner was but slight, and that early; which, with our morning walks, rides, and peregrinations, I am convinced, from experience, contribute much more to the enjoyment of real health, than all the medicines ever invented.

During supper, our conversation turned chiefly on the new Colonel of Cavalry, who was well known to most of them; and they made no scruple of speaking their opinions without reserve, and these made him appear indeed the vilest creature alive, and at the same time conveyed the severest stricture on the Government, which had thought proper to employ him. Major Saint Amour said, "he thought there were but few honest men in the whole

X 4 country,

country, that is to say, such as could compare with those esteemed as honest men in other countries; that among themselves there were some who were not so totally abandoned as others, and so comparatively more honest; but that, when compared as a nation with any other he knew of, they far exceeded them all in every species of wickedness—drinking alone excepted; for, (added he) they are such a set of dark, inscrutable impostors, and there is such a considerable share of base ingenuity requisite to trace them through all the mazes, turnings and windings of their complicated knavery, that unless a man becomes by habit, practice, and principle, as bad as one of themselves, it is impossible ever to find them out.”

Brigadier Forbes, known formerly in London by the name of Captain Forbes, replied, “that he was extremely sorry he could not dissent much more than he felt he did, from the truth of Saint Amour’s remarks upon the Portuguese; his experience

rience of them had been perhaps equal to that of any other man in the company, and he thought experience was the surest guide whereby to regulate one's opinion of them."

That worthy man, the King's Lieutenant, said, "he agreed entirely with what the last Gentleman observed; that he knew of no method of becoming really acquainted with the manners and character of a people, so authentic, and so little subject to error and mistake, as by historical relations and details of matters of fact, which have really come to pass, under the eye or intimate knowledge of the relater, provided he adhere uniformly to that unbiassed spirit of impartiality which alone can give his account any credit, or himself any satisfaction: and, (added he) as something like this, is the most rational and instructive manner we have of entertaining Lord Freeman and his companions, and of thanking them for the favour they have done us of their company, I call upon you,
Mr.

Mr. Forbes, to begin, by giving us an account of what you know of the honesty and good faith of the people among whom we live."

But you must have patience till the next opportunity, when you shall have the story of Mr. Forbes's marriage. At present I am obliged to dress for a formal Portuguese dinner, to which our landlord and his guests have been asked these eight days.—Adieu.

LET-

LETTER XVII.

Porto, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

YOU have, no doubt, heard of the profusion exhibited at a miser's feast, which is become proverbial. If we are to judge of the Gentleman who gave us the great dinner, mentioned at the end of my last letter, by the same rule, he must be a miser in perfection. I never in my life saw such incredible quantities of victuals presented to so small a number of persons, nor could, in my opinion, any thing exceed it, excepting only the voracious manner after which I saw about five-and-twenty Portuguese Gentlemen devour them. As this passes all description, I shall prudently leave
it

it undescribed; for my own part, I ate very little, for the sight of so much victuals, and the ravenous manner of consuming them, was very near becoming nauseous to me, had I not been seated by our very entertaining and agreeable landlord, who was in a fine vein of humour, by which he even obliged the Portuguese, so totally intent upon their feeding, to suspend that animal function, and exercise their risible faculties, he so tickled their imagination with the aptest and best applied expressions in their own language, which he speaks in perfection: when, at some intervals, I expressed my surprize at what I saw, he told me in English, it was nothing to other scenes of gormandizing he has been present at; that it was very common for the Portuguese, when asked to such an entertainment, to fast for the preceding day, or to prepare themselves by gentle purgatives, for doing honour to the person who invites them.

But

But leaving that mechanical business to Epicureans of such bad taste, I shall continue with the story of Mr. Forbes, in his own words.

“ If I were to give you an account (said Mr. Forbes, after being called upon by the King’s Lieutenant) of only the twentieth part of what has come under my own cognizance, concerning the duplicity and dissingenuity of these people, and the dislike they have to Foreigners in general, I should keep you here till to-morrow at this time; but what, in my opinion, should most provoke the indignation of every man of probity and honour, and displays, at the same time, the baseness and meanness of this people’s disposition, is, that in all their secret underhand accusations, informations, and attempts to hurt and discredit you, they never attack you on the side of your talents or capacity; nor accuse you of neglect of duty, nor deficiency in professional knowledge, or in the practice of any of the moral virtues, of which they themselves

themselves have hardly even an idea; but their whole efforts are directed to make you out a fordid thief, a peculator, and an embezzler of the King's stores. When I commanded the Regiment of the Peniche at Lisbon, they reported, that I had stolen and sold, Heaven knows how many of the soldiers shirts, pairs of stockings and shoes! and since I have commanded this Regiment of Cavalry, they have made me eat up and devour trusses of straw, and bushels of corn, without number! and it becomes of no avail to evidence the impossibility of such allegations; for, as they know the worst that can happen them is to have their false accusations despised and neglected, without any danger of corporal punishment, they persist in repeating the same allegations, which at last come to be believed by many; and the wretches enjoy a malignant pleasure in spreading such aspersions.

“ But as one example is better than a thousand observations, I shall single out one in which their malice will be evident,
and

and that in persons of rank, particularly one of the most dignified characters in the kingdom.

“ The difficulties I encountered when I paid my addresses to the person who is now my wife, were generally known in Lisbon at the time : When I first saw her at the Opera there, I thought I had never seen any thing so beautiful, and indeed, I may now say, from the experience of her disposition, so good ; I felt for her one of those sensations which strike to the heart, and I was miserable till I could fall upon some means of signifying to her the ardour of my affection, and of being informed how hers was disposed in regard to me : This, after considerable time and trouble, I effected, and was transported to find her inclinations so congenial with my own. What I chiefly wished at this time was, for an opportunity of talking with her, but that I found to be totally impracticable ; besides, she was at this very time already engaged to marry the heir of another family, as far as the
will

will and authority of the parents of both parties could go to do it; which generally decide every thing of the kind in this country; for this purpose, in order to constitute her heiress of the family estate, her mother contrived to prove in a court of justice, by the help of some honest Lawyers, that her only son was a fool, as he really was, and still continues to be, so that he being set aside, the estate went with the daughter; and with that of the Gentleman she should espouse, was to form a noble patrimony for their children.

“ Till the moment my wife saw me, she was indifferent, and had given as usual, even her tacit consent to the arrangements her relations were making for her marriage; but after that, she peremptorily told her mother, she would never marry into the Almada family, whatever attempts might be made to force her to it; and indeed of all the ugly, pitiful-looking Fidalgos I ever saw, her intended bridegroom was the most disagreeable and disgusting to behold: If to
the

the fallow, bloodless colour of a hard-featured, meagre, Jewish countenance, you add that sickly, languid appearance, produced by the effects of a certain disorder, very common in this country, operating strongly in the blood, and handed down from father to son, with an additional dose of the infection from each, during some centuries past, you will be able to form some adequate idea of such an Adonis; and what is worse, his mind was more deformed than his ill-made and diminutive person. Gaming and low intrigue, detraction and back biting had been the principal occupations of his life; and, as soon as he and his numerous relations discovered the young Lady's partiality for me, they were not more active than my own mother-in-law, and all her adherents, in endeavouring, by every shameful means, to prevent the completion of our wishes.

“For this purpose, the son, who a little before had been proved a fool, was now made, by the help of other *honest* Lawyers,

to recover his senses, and his mother got him married as quickly as possible, in order, by means of his children, to cut off every prospect of the family estate ever falling to her daughter; in which he has not disappointed her; nor, if report says true, any other female to whom he made delicate proposals, so successful are real fools said to be in their generative faculties.

“ Be that as it may, the whole Nobility of Lisbon made a common cause of my temerity in presuming to pay my addresses to a Lady by birth equal to themselves, and nearly related to most of them; I was called an adventurer, a heretick, and a poor mean fellow, who, like all the other foreigners, had come to this service to look for a bit of bread. I received a number of anonymous letters from secret friends, advising me to desist from my pretensions, otherwise I would certainly be set upon and murdered in the streets, or in the quarters by my own soldiers.

“ The

"The late Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, Saldanha, was my wife's uncle, a man of great authority among the Nobility; and in truth he bore an universal good character, as a person of candor and urbanity. To him I resolved to address myself, to know his mind, and, if practicable, to obtain his support in marrying his niece. I had already obliged him in several little favors granted to Officers and Soldiers he had sent to me about, and he received me with great cordiality when I waited on him. After talking with him on the subject, he began by expressing his great personal regard for me, and esteem for my character, but said, that he could not approve of my marrying his niece. One thing, however, he said, I might depend on, which was, that whatever opposition he would make to it, should be frank, open and avowed, such as became one Gentleman to another, and by no means what he understood some of the Lady's relations were making. I kissed his hand, thanking him

for the fair and open declaration of his sentiments, and took my leave.

“ Mean time I received the certificates in form I had sent for to my own country, and to France, of which I immediately dispersed copies, taken by a Notary Public; and their astonishment was great, when they found, by some of them, that my ancestors were noted and distinguished in prowess and arms, long before their little kingdom of Portugal existed as such; and by others, that I had been christened, and regularly educated at least as good a Catholic as themselves.

“ The lye direct being thus given to their most flagrant accusations, other methods of preventing the match were to be adopted, and I was positively assured one evening at the Opera, that I was to be set upon at going out. When I came to the door, a couple of fellows seemed inclined to prevent my passing, and were drawing their knives: I instantly started back, drew my sword, and pinned one of them to the wall,
the

the other made off, as well as several companions they had without. The villain I secured proved to be a servant of the Al-mada family.

“ This act of violence made it necessary for Government to interfere, and the young Lady was juridically interrogated by the competent Ecclesiastical Court, if her wish, desire and intention were to marry me? to which having replied in the affirmative, she was by the same Court taken out of her mother’s possession, and deposited under the care of another Lady of reputation, till our marriage was celebrated, which was the first time I had an opportunity of speaking with her.

“ The proud old Lady now enraged, at what she called her daughter’s obstinacy, resolved to do a thing, of all others the most humiliating to herself, to prevent the marriage; she waited on the Marquis of Pombal, then Minister, whom in her heart she both hated and despised, and which he also was perfectly sensible of, and falling

on her knees, she conjured him by every argument she could use, to prevent the nuptials—but all in vain. His constant reply was, that there was but one method, by which his Majesty could take upon him to forbid the bans, and that was, by engaging her daughter to declare her dissent to the match.

“ Before we were twelve months married, the mother was as anxious to be reconciled to her daughter as she had been before averse to her marriage, and now laments bitterly, but in vain, her effecting the marriage of her foolish son, which has entirely precluded her daughter's children from any hopes of enjoying the estate.

“ I should be wanting in respect to the company, if I attempted to entertain you with all the mean, the profligate, cowardly and facinorous arts, the numerous opposers of my marriage put in practice to prevent it; but what astonished me beyond every thing, after obtaining all the information possible, and investigating every

every circumstance, so as to prevent my being imposed on, or forming any rash judgment, was, to find and know for certain, that the same Cardinal Patriarch, who, unsolicited, had made me such a generous declaration of his intentions, had been the principal adviser and instigator of all of them! I confess, till that period, I had candidly doubted the truth of many assertions I heard injurious to the characters of our Portuguese Nobility, as men, and much more as persons of rank; but I confess as freely, that, from that period to the present, I have never had the smallest reason to change the unfavourable opinion of them I then adopted, and which the disgraceful uniformity of their behaviour compels me to preserve."

Brigadier Forbes having finished his account, which appeared exceedingly singular to us, unacquainted as we were with the customs of this country, the King's Lieutenant next called upon his friend Colonel

Mackilphan, to attest the honor of his colleagues the Nobility, of whom he was lately become a member, by marrying an heiress, a woman of family ; adding, that he was in hopes he would not be disposed to censure them so severely as his friend the Brigadier had done, who had indeed obtained a very fine woman, though without the estate, which she has been deprived of by the madness of her mother.

Mr. Mackilphan having left his own country when very young, and having never had any opportunity of improving in the English language, he could speak it only as he had learned it in his native county of Galway, and therefore found considerable difficulty in expressing himself in that language ; and whenever he did, it was always interlarded with literal translations from the French, Spanish and Portuguese, all which he spoke fluently : Thus, if you asked him to dine with you, and he happened to be pre-engaged, he would thank you
very

very politely and say, "that he was already prayed * to dine at such another place:" If at dinner you offered to help him to mutton, veal, &c. on a Friday, he would say, "he was defended † from eating meat on that day:" If you talked to him of the unsettled state of the weather, he would gravely observe, "that there was no trusting to God in the winter time ‡:" When he wished to express his gratitude familiarly to a friend for any favor received, he would assure him, "that he should find he had not thrown his favours into a rotten bag ||:" If he thought a man was going after any unprofitable business, he would tell him, "that he was looking for mid-day at two in the after-

* The French expression commonly is, Je suis prié à dîner chez un tel.

† In French, Il m'est défendu; it is forbidden me.

‡ However disrespectful it may appear, there are few proverbial phrases more common in Spain and Portugal, than No ay que fiar en Dios, en el tiempo del Ynvierno.

|| Another very common expression in the Spanish language; hallará usted que no ha echado sus favores, en saco roto.

noon *." In short, he introduced on all occasions a variety of Gallicisms, Spanishisms, &c. and often by his manner excited the risible faculties of the company, even when discoursing on the most serious subjects. Talking very gravely one day in Lisbon with an English Lady, (who was very corpulent, but much respected by a large mixed company then present) on the great difficulty all Foreigners must experience in learning the English language, he told her, "he thought no person should attempt to speak English without first having a large and solid fundament †;" an expression perfectly proper in the Portuguese language, from which he happened on that occasion unfortunately to translate it.

It will therefore be impossible to express what he said on the present occasion in his own words, though his meaning was per-

* The French expression is, vous cherchez midi à quatorze heures.

† The Portuguese words, bom fundamento, are perfectly decent and pertinent.

fectly evident: He had not so far forgotten a custom still too prevalent in his own country, as to prevent his beginning with an oath, swearing by his Saviour, "that if he had some of the Portuguese Fidalgos he could name, only for a few days in his own little County of Galway, he would soon cure them of telling lies, or speaking ill of their neighbours, otherwise they would have their noses slit, and their ears cut off, with a few eyelet-holes made in their skins, which would make them look a little about them; as for his part, he said, he knew them before he was ten days in the country as well as at the time he was speaking; for when he came to Abrantes, one of Count la Lippe's Aides du Camp, with whom he became acquainted, did nothing the day long but abuse the Portuguese Nobility, who were there dancing attendance in the levy-rooms, calling them all the wicked names he could conjure up in English; on which he enquired what reason he could have to abuse them all so grossly, before he had time

to

to be acquainted with them? that the Aide du Camp answered him, the reason why he should for ever detest and despise such wretches was, that on the day after their arrival in Lisbon from England, the principal Officers of the Portuguese Army, all of them Fidalgos, to the number of twenty, waited on his master the Count la Lippe, to congratulate him on his arrival among them, as Marshal General of the Army; that, as they were all sitting in a circle conversing with the Count in French, about various Army business, the English Ambassador, Lord Tyrawley, was announced, came in, and took his seat near the Count, who had formerly been his intimate acquaintance, without taking the least notice of any of the others; and after discoursing some time with him in his abrupt way, he said to him likewise in French, and loud enough to be heard of all of them, ‘ mais j'avoue que je n'aurais jamais crû, que Mr. le Comte de la Lippe, un Officier qui avait servi avec tant de reputation en Allemagne,

magne, et d'un caractère si bien connu de toute l'Europe, se serait deshonoré jusqu'au point de venir dans ce pays-ci pour commander ces j—— f—— *,' pointing at the same time at the company before him! Now, Sir, said the Aide du Camp to him, what is your opinion of these honourable men, when I assure you, not one of them ever had the curiosity to ask his Lordship, why he talked of them in such a manner?— Here Mackilphan was interrupted by Major St. Amour, who assured the company, he was present when the transaction happened exactly as the Colonel had related it.

Mackilphan went on by observing, “ he had little more to say about them, only he thought there would be no harm in telling us what passed very lately between himself

* This passage being rather long, the translation is here subjoined, for the information of the generality of readers:—
 ‘ but I confess I could not have believed the Count la Lippe, an Officer who has served with such reputation in Germany, and whose character is so well known all over Europe, would have disgraced himself so far as to come into this country to command these Sc—nd—ls.’

and

and the present Secretary of War at Lisbon, from which place he was but very lately returned, and by which we might judge of the sentiments of the Queen and the present Ministry, with regard to what a Regiment ought to be and how composed.

“ The noble Secretary, (continued he) who knows no more of war or fighting than I know of preaching, when I waited on him, began by telling me, that they now considered me as one of themselves, which I suppose he meant as a compliment, that the Queen had resolved to give me the command of the Regiment of Infantry of Miranda, with the rank of full Colonel, and to make me also Governor of the Garrison ; I told him I was extremely sensible of the honor her Majesty intended me, and remarked how improper it had been to suffer that Regiment, so long complete in men, to remain for above these three years past, without either a Captain or a Field Officer to command it ; he allowed it was so, and therefore desired me to prepare a list of the
persons

persons I would recommend for Officers, as quickly as possible, and give it him in order to have their commissions made out and signed; at the same time he put a scroll of names into my hand, desiring these Gentlemen might be included in my list, for the ranks therein specified. I cast my eyes over his scroll and found he had put down for Captains, three Lieutenants, whom I knew the Count la Lippe had reformed in 1762, for being then too old for the service; that he had put down for Subalterns, two men at the time his own domestics; and three more, who, I knew, had been recommended to him by different Noblemen, in whose service they were; but what was worst of all, three Officers were to be replaced who had served in the Regiment before, but had deserted into Spain at different times, and had been sentenced by regular Court-martials; one of them had carried off six months pay of the company he commanded; another, married and established in the town of Miranda, had seduced a widow gentle-

gentlewoman, his neighbour, and her three daughters, who were all pregnant by him; and the third was cousin to my own wife, the greatest vagabond I have ever known; for he had shot a particular friend of his own from behind a wall, being jealous of his visiting the same Nun he paid his addresses to at the Convent; and because she was jade enough to give them both equal encouragement: When I saw how things were going, I returned him the paper he had given me, declaring, that I could never sign my name to a list which contained proposals for such thieves to have commissions in a Regiment I was to command; he replied, it was her Majesty's pleasure it should be so; that she had pardoned the first of these Officers his desertion, upon his replacing the money he had stolen; that she had pardoned the second at the earnest and repeated entreaties of the Count de Cantanhede, on condition, that when his present wife died, he should marry either the mother or any one of the three daughters he should

should chuse; that with regard to the third, as he was a Fidalgo and cousin to my wife, he was certain I would be very happy to learn that he was pardoned: I answered him, that I would thankfully accept the rank of Colonel and the employment of Governor of the Garrison of Miranda; that the Queen was free and absolute mistress of her own actions, and therefore could pardon such atrocious criminals; but I humbly hoped she would also pardon me if I could have nothing to say to a Regiment so composed; and also, if I took the liberty of using a little more freedom with my wife's cousin in the way of kindness and relationship than with the others; that nothing could mortify me more than to find her Majesty had pardoned him; and, as she was so merciful, I trusted she would also forgive me for running such a base coward through the body, wherever I met him, as a disgrace to me and all his relations. The Secretary said, he did not think his crime so grievous, that when a Gentleman thinks

himself offended, he will take satisfaction. I asked him, if the proper method of taking satisfaction was to stand and shoot a man from behind a wall, as you would a wild boar, or a mad dog, you were afraid to approach? He smiled and replied, that he supposed I would be for calling him out; but that, he said, was abominable, and looked so like premeditated murder, and was so contrary to what ought to be the behaviour of a true Catholic Christian; that it might agree well enough with the Heretical principles of the English and other wild nations of the North; but he hoped none of the Faithful would ever be so far abandoned as to follow their example. As I found that talking to him any more on the subject was like throwing pearls to swine, I took my leave, after agreeing I was to have the commission of Governor, which I since received; and after assuring him, that wherever I should meet my wife's cousin I should certainly allow him to defend himself, but that I would not quit him till I had

had given him a few thrusts of my sword, in the way of friendship, and of putting it out of his power any more to disgrace a uniform."

What is your opinion of the above extraordinary accounts? Do they appear to you credible? They are however unquestionably true. St. Amour attests the truth of the horrible affront put upon the Portuguese Nobility by Lord Tyrawley, and named to us another Officer still in this service, who was also present, and whom we shall probably meet with. As to what Mr. Forbes related, I find almost every circumstance is publicly known in this country; and the Officers the Secretary at War desired Mr. Mackilphan to employ, have actually been placed in the same Regiment since, excepting his cousin-in-law, who has been sent into a different province, as the Secretary himself, it seems, acknowledges, to preserve him from the claws of his cousin, the mad Hibernian.

In Spain, I can assure you, it is not so; the military character is there considered and supported with that delicacy of sentiment, so indispensable to its very existence: Here, I consider it as having none, except among the very small number of Foreign Officers still remaining: If I were to ask you, whether you thought it possible to furnish any stronger instances of insult upon the military character than those I have mentioned, you would certainly answer in the negative; but I beg you not to be rash nor positive, till you have perused the contents of my next. Till then, adieu.

LET-

LETTER XVIII.

Porto, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

WITHOUT preamble, I shall proceed to what I promised you at the close of my last epistle.

The whole company were as much entertained with Mackilphan's manner of expressing himself in English, as surprised at the subject matter his relation contained. Lord Freeman could not help admiring the discernment of the Secretary of War, who, while he justly condemned the practice of duelling, gilded over those of murder and assassination, with the gentle phrase of taking satisfaction. Major St Amour then addressing the company, said, he believed he could match any thing we had yet heard, by the narrative of what has very lately

happened in the garrison he belonged to, and with which he supposed some of the Gentlemen present were not unacquainted. The King's Lieutenant desired him to proceed, which he did as follows :

“ It is of a Gentleman of the town or city of Bragança, married and established there; he was hereditary Civil Governor or Constable of the Town, Superintendant of the Custom-house, a Lieutenant in the Regiment of Cavalry of the same, and the laziest drone ever disgraced a cockade; as by means of certificates of sickness he obtained from the wretched Surgeons or Physicians, or by surreptitious leaves of absence, on real or pretended business, he contrived it so as never to do any sort of duty in the Regiment; this man paid his addresses to a certain Nun of a Convent in the same town, and getting by stealth into the Convent, here esteemed a crime of the blackest dye, he debauched her, continuing his furtive visits for a considerable time, till satiety bred disgust; he then directed his addresses to
another

another Nun of the same Convent, sister to the former, and with the same success; this second intrigue was however soon discovered by the jealous and disappointed Nun who had been the first object of his passion, and by her quickly communicated to the Bishop of the diocese, who, in concert with the Commanding Officer of the garrison, had the Convent surrounded with troops, on the signal previously agreed on being given from the Convent, by the jealous Nun, of the time when the Officer was actually with her sister; and strict search being made, the gallant was found and seized in the courtyard of the Convent, concealed under a large pile of fire-wood, and carried prisoner to the garrison of Chaves, which is the head-quarters of our province; there, he was tried by a Court-martial, convicted and sentenced according to law: This sentence was transmitted to Court for approbation in the usual form, and (as customary) was with many others thrown under the table and remained there, this being the most expeditious

method the Marquis of Pombal could think of, for dispatching every kind of Army business; the culprit remained for a long time a prisoner in the main-guard of Chaves, and at last obtained from the Governor as a particular favor, the liberty of walking abroad through the town upon his parole of honor, where, by way of amusement, he made his court to a married woman, whose husband was rather old, but a Gentleman, living upon a small, but independent fortune. In this he succeeded so well, that, in order to enjoy each other's company with less interruption, they agreed that she should administer to her husband a dose of poison, which the paramour had prepared for him. The poor man actually took part of it, and discovered what it was, but not in time either to save his life, or to prevent both the lovers from escaping into Spain upon two stout mules they took from his stables.

“ Our gallant remained with his mistress in Spain, very near our garrison, living upon his rents, which were regularly remitted

to

to him. On his evasion from Chaves being reported to the late Minister, he was so provoked by the information he had of several circumstances of his base behaviour, that he sent particular orders to the Governor of Chaves to have him hanged in effigy in presence of the whole Garrison, under arms, and his person to be declared infamous, which was accordingly done.

“ But at the very beginning of this present promising Administration, that same infamous person returned to Lisbon, furnished with such powerful letters of solicitation, that her Most Faithful Majesty was pleased to pardon and forgive him his various crimes and iniquities, in the way and manner following, that is to say,

“ She pardoned him the crime of breaking by stealth into a Convent of Nuns, which is reckoned by all the rigid people especially, as a crime for which it is next to impossible to make any adequate atonement. This is so true, that her own grand-father, Don John the Fifth, (who himself kept his *seraglio*

raglio in the Royal Convent of Odivellas, which during that reign gave a number of Royal bastards to the world) was so jealous of this privilege, that he was never known to forgive any person who had prophaned the sacred precincts of a female Convent, to seduce the Religious, and the slightest punishment he inflicted was banishment to the Indies for life.

“ But to return——Her Most Faithful Majesty pardoned our gallant the crime of carnal knowledge of one of the spouses of Christ, to whom, by her profession, she had been so solemnly betrothed: She then pardoned him the repetition of the same crime with another Nun of the same Convent: She also pardoned him the crime of incest, for the two Nuns were sisters; to all which we must superadd, that she pardoned him the crime of double adultery, he himself being a married man: The generous Queen next proceeded to pardon him the crime of adultery with the Gentleman's wife, in the town of Chaves, after the Governor had permitted

permitted him to walk about upon his parole of honor : Then follows her pardon of the crime of murdering his mistress's husband, in which he was art and part ; After this he is pardoned the crime of stealing two mules to carry them into Spain ; And lastly, her Majesty pardoned him, being a commissioned Officer in her service, the crime of desertion into a foreign kingdom, under the aggravating circumstances of his being under arrest and tried for other crimes, and enlarged with the privilege of walking about the town upon his parole of honor !

“ I hope the company will pardon my being obliged to repeat, according to truth, such a number of pardons granted to such a number of abominable crimes, all committed by the same detestable person ; and if they have not yet held up their hands in amazement at the imbecility and madness of the Queen, let them prepare to do so on hearing the sequel of this impartial narrative.

“ The title and employment of Alcaide Môr, or chief Constable of any provincial town,

town, is esteemed the most honorary the Crown can bestow on persons of wealth or merit in the provinces, or on such whose ancestors have rendered any eminent service to the state; the same may, in a great measure, be said of the person who is charged with the direction of the Custom-house in the frontier towns, as that employment is never conferred but upon persons possessed of estates, such as will enable them to answer any defalcations which may be committed upon the revenue by their subalterns and people employed under them, for which the Superintendant is responsible; and yet this man, so thoroughly convicted of the perpetration of so many execrable crimes—this man, whom her late father had ordered to be hung in effigy, and his person to be declared infamous—this man has the Queen reinstated fully in all his employments! to the disgrace of her appointments, and the scorn of every thinking man.

“ But, as if not satisfied with these egregious exhibitions of the most consummate weakness,

weakness, and the most misplaced and destructive lenity, she has replaced him by a new commission, in the same post of the same Regiment, which by the sentence of a Court-martial he had lost, ordering it to be signified in the Regiment, that she would severely punish any Officer who should have the smallest scruple at doing duty with him again ! In truth she had no occasion for this act of commination, for none of the Officers were found delicate enough to stand in need of it, although there are three Officers now in the Regiment with him, brothers to the two sisters he debauched in the Convent, who, as well as all the other Officers appear to live in perfect harmony with him ; so great is their prudence and circumspection, and such their implicit obedience to the laws against duelling, or any others which happen to coincide so perfectly with their own inclinations.

“ Not to leave the business done by halves, but finally, and to crown all, the generous Queen ordered every note or entry

try of this Officer's desertion, of the Court-martial held upon him, and of every thing else concerning him, which it is customary to record and set down in the register-book of each respective Regiment, to be entirely blotted out and erased, that there might exist in future no remembrance of such extraordinary transactions!

“ Every Gentleman will make such a comment upon this singular affair, just newly happened, as he judges fit; for my part, I shall make none, as I doubt much whether all history can produce a parallel example!”

The post is just going out, and I must break off here for the present; and had I even time to proceed, I should do like Major St. Amour, leave you to make your own remarks on the contents of this epistle. Farewell.

LET.

LETTER XIX.

Porto, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

BEFORE I proceed to the continuation of my subject, I must say a few words of an Assembly I was at last night, to which we had been invited some days before by a Portuguese Nobleman, who generally resides in this town, and affects to mix much with the English. After tea, coffee and sweetmeats had been served in abundance, to a very large company, a considerable part of it stood up to dance country-dances, while others retired to two other apartments adjoining, where the card-tables were placed; and at a large one the eldest son of the family held a faro-bank, which soon drew to it people enough, who were willing to try their fortunes, and of whom I was one. We
continued

continued playing some time, when I looked round the table, and, to my surprise, found three or four of the domestics who had served us the tea and coffee, seated familiarly among us, punting at the bank, and conversing with the banker and the other Gentlemen, upon the most equal footing, and treated by them with the utmost civility and complaisance, calling them by their Christian names, always preceded by the Senhor or Mr. in English. I mentioned this to the Consul, who assured me it was the universal custom here, and says, the Portuguese Gentlemen are shocked at the improper and severe distance at which the English keep their servants, treating them more like slaves than humble friends and attendants, whereas they think that by gentle and familiar treatment, they bid fairer for conciliating their affections, and ensuring their fidelity. I confess, upon reflection, their reasoning appears to be in theory just and humane, but how far it might be practicable with English domestics, I will not pretend to

to determine; only I thought as the novelty of the thing must strike you, it was worth mentioning.—Now for our company at Almeida.

Though it was rather late when Major St. Amour finished his narrative, and we were all to set out next morning for the banks of the Douro, where the Gentlemen from the province of Traz-os-Montes were to leave the others, and we were also to take our leave of our worthy and hospitable King's Lieutenant, Lord Freeman could not help expressing his astonishment, and even insinuating his doubts of such a thing having ever happened with all the circumstances described; but his doubts were soon removed by several Officers present, assuring him of the veracity of every tittle St. Amour had related. He then observed, that under such a wanton despotism of government law was of no manner of use, but to be insulted, or, at best, to serve as a dead letter. The Major said, that unfortunately for himself, he had but too much time to study their laws,

and observe how they were carried into execution; that, in fact, many excellent laws had at different times been promulgated by the late Minister, on a variety of subjects, but always without any sort of connection, and often clashing with each other, in such a manner, that one law always abrogated some part of that which had immediately preceded it; and it was generally to be remarked, that every law he published, was rather calculated to answer some particular point he had in view at the time, than for any general or permanent utility, for that they were very seldom carried into execution; that he always appeared to care very little whether they produced their intended effects or not; but, when stimulated to it by some particular interest, he then made use of them to right himself, to favor those who were under his protection, or to persecute his enemies; that laws had been made for the encouragement of agriculture, for regulating the repartition of lands, to prevent particular estates from growing too unwieldy

wieldy and extensive, for encouraging the planting the mulberry-tree, for recruiting the Army, the punishment of desertion and other crimes committed by the military ; but the law was only permitted to take its course in the suits which arise among the country people and the poor or middling people of the cities ; that the Minister's own estates were increased out of all proportion at the very time he was limiting by law the boundaries of those of every other person ; that his law for encouraging the cultivation of silk was become nugatory, for there had not been either an honorary premium, nor any of the pecuniary rewards held out by the laws, granted to those who had cultivated the white mulberry-tree, who had applied for, and by the terms of the law were entitled to them ; that several applications had been made for waste uncultivated lands, by persons who formed nurseries of the mulberry, according to the tenor of that law, but their applications had been rejected ; that with regard to the Ar-

my, the punishment by law of desertion out of the kingdom is capital ; that in every Regiment several soldiers had been tried for that crime and found guilty, but there had been as yet no example of the sentence being put in execution, the consequence of which was, that discipline was totally relaxed, and the soldiers every where laughed at Court-martials and their sentences ; that in the civil and criminal Courts, the Judges are paid by the Prince, and are all, in a greater or smaller degree, influenced by the superior Nobility ; that there was not a client who had not the protection of some powerful family, on which, and generally with reason, he depended, much more than on the justice of his cause ; that, even if justice were to have its course, the very constitution of their criminal Courts was abominable, for in them there was a powerful Officer, named by the King, called the Judge Criminal, and to this person exclusively are referred all the examinations of witnesses, and the taking of their depositions,

tions, all in secret ; no cross-examinations are permitted, nor confronting before a public Court, and the Judges, who are to give the sentence, must rely entirely upon the reports and papers this man lays before them, and have no other method of becoming acquainted with all the circumstances. Now, in matters of life and death, he said, this was certainly depositing too much authority in the hands of any one man whatever.

Most of us were early on horseback in the morning, and we arrived to breakfast at a village upon the banks of the Douro, called St. John da Pasqueira, where the King's Lieutenant had sent servants before, to prepare it for us : after breakfast the Gentlemen from the Traz-os-Montes took their leaves, and crossed the river to pursue their journey. We were really sorry to lose their company, but particularly John Carlos regretted exceedingly his being obliged so soon to part with Major St. Amour ; it seems these two had held several particular

conversations together while at Almeida, concerning the state of Religion and of the Church in this country ; and St. Amour, who is a man of penetration and some reading, had given the other so much new information, and had started to him so many new ideas on that extensive and intricate subject, as set his brains quite a-working, and made him so much the more earnest in instructing himself in the ancient and modern history of religion, with which, for the sins of mankind, all other histories have been so inseparably connected, almost ever since the establishment of Christianity: Major St. Amour having all the leisure necessary to observe and analyse the system of religion he saw here every day before his eyes, he compared it first with that in which he had been educated in England ; he was then induced to compare the same, by the lights of history, with its pure and divine origin, which he found it now so little resembled ; by this means he was able to discover the sources of all that variety of
abuse

abuse and corruption which had at different periods flowed into the channel of the doctrine and discipline of the Church, and changed it from an Angel of light into a Spirit of darkness, deformity and destruction; and had so totally subverted the benevolence of its first institution, that it was now become the heaviest curse the wrath of an offended Deity could inflict on most of the nations of Europe, where it existed. This was the burden of his discourse with young John Carlos, which set him to meditating upon them so much the more, as by the will of a deceased benefactor, who had given him as good an education as Lisbon could afford, and bequeathed him a decent pension for life, he was expressly destined for the Church; he therefore reasonably considered, that it behoved him, in a concern of such magnitude and consequence, to reflect and examine thoroughly the ground he was going upon, to prevent, if possible, every false step; and having on various occasions communicated many of

these circumstances in conversation, both with Lord Freeman and myself, we have been unanimous by our opinions and answers to his questions, in confirming him in the same prudent and laudable resolution.

When we observed the mountainous and rugged banks of the rapid Douro on both sides, and learned the roads were rough and uneasy from thence to Porto, and considering moreover, that we should in reality have a much better view of all the vineyards on the banks of the river from the water, than from any other situation whatever, we resolved to hire a boat to carry us to Porto, and therefore sent our horses and servants thither by land, and after taking an affectionate leave of the King's Lieutenant of Almeida, and thanking him for all his kindness and hospitality, we embarked, and arrived at this city towards the evening, and by the pressing solicitations of the British Consul (as I mentioned in a former letter), we took up our quarters with him,

as he said he expected Lord Freeman, and had letters which had been remitted to him for his Lordship from Lisbon.

A few observations more on the situation of the peasantry in this country, who, as far as I have been yet able to observe, are very nearly as wretched as in many parts of Spain, shall finish this letter.

The two cities of Lisbon and Porto may be justly considered as the two eyes of Portugal, for here centre the whole riches of the country and all their trade with foreign nations, and with their own possessions in the Brazils; upon which last especially depends their whole existence as a people, and the immediate support of the throne.

A sensible Portuguese writer, whose manuscript performances are in the hands of his friends (but nothing of which he dares offer for publication, well knowing they would not be permitted to pass), compares, not unaptly, their whole kingdom to one of that sort of spiders which has a large body, containing all the substance (the capital),
with

with extremely long, thin, feeble legs, reaching to a great distance, but are of no sort of use to it, and which it is hardly able to move. The benefits of foreign trade, and of the fine and vast countries the Kings of Portugal possessed in Africa and the East, or of those still remaining to them in South America, have never yet reached the Portuguese peasant, any farther than by enabling the inhabitants of the two cities to pay a little advance upon the provisions he brings to market; neither has all the splendor of foreign conquests contributed in the least to better his situation. The only foreign luxury he is yet acquainted with is tobacco; and, when his feeble purse can reach it, he purchases a dried Newfoundland cod-fish; but this is a regale he dares seldom aspire to. A piece of bread made of Indian corn, and a salted pilchard or a head of garlick, to give that bread a flavor, compose his standing dish; and if he can get a bit of the hog, the ox, or the calf he himself fattens, to regale his wretched family

at

at Christmas or Easter, he has reached the pinnacle of happiness in this world; and, indeed, whatever he possessed beyond this habitual penury, according to the present state and exertions of his intellects, would quickly be taken from him, or rather he would willingly part with it; for finding want and misery to be his portion here, he is taught by the numberless ghostly comforters and directors, with which his country swarms, to look forward for ease and happiness to another state of existence, to which they are themselves the infallible guides and conductors. This he is by example and education uniformly engaged to believe he can attain by faithfully paying his tithes, by charitable donations to such a Convent, or to the shrine and the officiating Priests of such a Saint, or such an Altar as happens to be the object of his particular attachment and devotion. If any misfortune befalls him, he is convinced he has been deficient in something essential, and therefore his fervorous zeal and donations are

are redoubled. Is he successful, the same effects are produced in grateful acknowledgments. If he has money enough to furnish a portion for putting his son or his daughter into a Religion, this raises the credit of his family for ever; and nothing is then wanting to give him a sort of apotheosis in all the Convents and country round, but to bequeath at his death, what little money he can muster, to be divided among the Priests, in quickly saying a number of Masses, for a speedy passage of his soul through the ordeal fire of Purgatory, to the enjoyment of those finely painted scenes, which, like a distant gaudy picture, had been long held out to his fond imagination.

After this short but genuine description of what I may call the present state of religion among the vulgar here, every motive of surprise will cease at seeing the peasant in this country so poor, and the Church so rich: and as no form of government could agree with and support the flourishing state
of

of the Church half so well as the present, so it is no wonder to see the Church and State uniformly of one accord, in keeping the nation in that abject state of slavery, ignorance and poverty, on which their own conservation and security depend. Hence that universal appearance of apathy and dejection, traceable even in the face of the Portuguese peasant, always badly fed, and, for the most part, scorched with a burning sun. The ill-treated and useful labourer of the ground is shrivelled up and full of wrinkles at thirty, and more particularly the persons of the female sex, dragging out a wretched life of thirty or forty years, with every mark of livid old age, and with the appearance of walking spectres.

With regard to the miserable situation of the peasant here, I am afraid it too nearly resembles that of the same class of men in our own country. I long for the letter you promised me by your last, in which you mention there was a spirit rising in the nation it had never shewn before, which
afforded

afforded the brightest prospect of effecting their emancipation from British servitude ; but what will even that avail us ? while instead of substantial farmers and a well clothed peasantry, the country is covered with a set of wretched hinds, labouring under all the complicated misfortunes which ever accompany indigence and oppression. —Good night.

LET.

LETTER XX.

Porto, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

AS I was sitting down to continue the account of our observations on this city and different parts of the country near it, your wished-for epistle arrived in the Consul's packet from Lisbon, but, on perusal, it did not contain the information you had promised me respecting the present state of Ireland, and which I expected; though indeed it brought an answer as explicit as I could desire, and more flattering than I could expect, to a question I put to you particularly in one of my former epistles, requesting at the same time a punctual reply to it; I mean, whether or not my method of communicating to you from hence my observations

vations on this country was to your satisfaction? Your approbation of my preceding letters, and the earnestness with which you desire I would continue them, cannot fail giving me great encouragement to proceed; but I confess I am much at a loss, and know not how I am to comply with the other part of your request, it being in my opinion a matter of serious consideration.

If it be true that a man should think before he speaks, and think twice before he writes, he ought surely to reflect maturely either before he publishes his thoughts to the world, or consents that another should do it for him. In the letters I have hitherto written you from this country, I certainly had not the smallest idea of their being published; some of them bear the evident marks of erasement and emendation, and were written in places and at times when it was not possible to collect and arrange my thoughts as I could have wished; I therefore wrote down and sent you those which came uppermost, nor shall I now
much

much change my method, whatever be the event; only reminding you, that if, after what I shall say, you still resolve to publish them, it must be your care to have them drawn out after the most acceptable manner.

I think, if it were possible to penetrate so far as to discover the real motives of the almost innumerable publications with which your London press is daily teeming, very few of them would, I believe, be found of such a nature as to entitle them to the public approbation; for my own part, I cannot imagine any motive really deserving it, excepting that of public utility.

Vanity, private pique, revenge, hatred, nay and love too, attachment to a system, to a party, or an hypothesis, civil and religious prejudices, have all stimulated their respective votaries to wield the pen, and to make the press groan with their various productions, without paying to the public the deference of once considering whether

they would be either entertained or instructed thereby.

I had almost forgot another motive, which is, I am persuaded, a very cogent one among many classes of your London authors, and that is, Bread: but, at least, of this last motive, I think, I may freely presume to acquit myself, thanks to your friendly and brotherly affection; and I may certainly acquit you also, for however solicitous you otherwise are for my consent to your publishing my letters, you are still less in want of such precarious and casual supplies. You insist upon a positive and decisive answer; I shall go as far towards satisfying you as I prudently can, by the following conditional reply, taking such a resolution afterwards as you shall see just cause to adopt.

You must be conscious, it is impossible for me to decide upon the merit or demerit of my own letters, being a party too nearly concerned, to judge impartially, and too
much

much biaſſed by the *amour propre* which rules all men, and too frequently leads them aſtray; for a ſimilar reaſon, I am ſenſible many faults will alſo eſcape even a diſcerning brother's eye, which would be evident to the inveſtigation of any other fair and impartial critic; you ought not, therefore, on the preſent occaſion to conſide in your own judgment, but to put the letters under the inſpection of two or three ſenſible diſpaſſionate friends, requeſting their candid and attentive examination and opinion of them, at the ſame time concealing from them all knowledge of the writer; by this means, I think, you will be able to form the beſt eſtimate of their real merit and true value.

As I am of opinion that truth ought to be the firſt and great recommendatory characteriſtic of that ſort of writing which ſerves to convey to one nation, any detail of circumſtances by which they are to form their opinion of another, ſo I can aver, that I have been as particularly attentive to

introduce nothing I had not every reason to be morally, or at least, historically certain of, as I am resolved to be in every thing I may communicate to you in future. The characters of the persons I converse with are public and well known, and I chuse rather to report from the accounts of the natives, or of other persons of reputation established in and well acquainted with the country, than always trust to, or hazard my own observations, which, notwithstanding my best endeavours, are much more subject to error and mistake, from the cursory view I am obliged to take, of the various objects which pass before me.

This indispensable article of veracity once established, if these letters shall otherwise be found to contain information not generally known to the English reader, if they serve to make him better acquainted with the character and manners of a people, so intimately connected with England by commerce, if by considering the despotic nature of the Government here, and the artificial
misery

misery under which the Clergy and Nobility (you will remark I name the Clergy first) make the great body of the people groan; if, by comparing their situation with their own, only a dozen Englishmen shall be induced to set a higher value on the constitution of their own country, and the mild and liberal nature of the Government under which they live; if the examples of cruel oppressions, which daily happen here under the direct authority or sanction of the throne, can serve to make Britons prize that liberty, that glorious liberty, it is not in the power of man to deprive them of, while they act in conformity to the public and established laws of their country, I may safely venture to pronounce, these letters will be of use. Now, my dear Charles, it must be your particular business to verify all this in the manner I have hinted above, and to proceed to publish or not, according to the result of the diligent enquiries you shall have made.

B b 3

Though

Though it may be alledged with great appearance of reason, in regard to a thorough knowledge of the inhabitants and manners of this great peninsula; that the number of English residing at Cadiz, Lisbon, and in this place, ought to be well acquainted with them; yet a very little experience will soon evince the fallacy of such a conclusion: I find the English merchants here, the same I found them at Cadiz, and I am to suppose, they are the same at Lisbon; a worthy, friendly and hospitable set of Gentlemen, as attentive to their counting-rooms and business, every day before dinner, as they are to their dressing, cards and other amusements in the evening; many of them have been twenty or thirty years resident in the country, yet know but a few words of the language; if they take a trip into any part of the country on a holiday, it is in parties of pleasure with the ladies, to some spot they have fixed upon, whither they send a good dinner beforehand;

hand; there, they dance, eat and drink heartily, play at cards, and then return in the evening, without any manner of communication with the inhabitants, who, by their manners and appearance, are certainly no great objects of attraction, to the generality of Englishmen; neither have they time, even if they had the inclination, to study the country they live in, any little moment they have to spare being towards the evening; and then the cards, the eternal cards are constantly at hand to swallow it up.

But if the information I have been able to obtain hitherto, where we have only seen the interior and frontier parts of the country, may be thought to merit some attention, it is reasonable to suppose, that when we arrive at the capital, we shall meet with objects still more interesting. Indeed, from the account Lord Freeman gives me now of the business which carries him there, and of its particular circumstances, I have reason to believe he will find it a more

arduous affair than he expects; for a man so much in love as he appears to be, is commonly blind to every thing but his favourite object; however, I am resolved to stand by and accompany him, as long as I am authorized to do so by the propriety of his conduct and behaviour, of which (barring the violence of his passion) I have little reason to doubt.

Before I conclude this letter, I must mention an objection which I think considerable against publishing any thing of mine in London, provided my information is genuine, of which you will be a more competent judge, as being on the spot, and in a condition to ascertain the truth of what has been frequently told me at Madrid, by many English Gentlemen I have conversed with there, who seemed to talk *avec connaissance de cause*; for since I have been here I have had their information pretty nearly confirmed.

I understand there are in London, several bodies of professional critics, whose employment

ment it is to ascertain the merits or demerits of every new publication; and who, publishing their opinions to the world at stated periods, can hardly fail of directing, in some degree, the public judgment, if their criticisms are found by experience to be dictated with candour and impartiality. Yet there must appear many publications in London, concerning which, I should think, it would be very difficult for these gentlemen to pronounce with propriety; and I am humbly of opinion, these very Letters come under this description: for, without having been in this country, and unacquainted as they must be with its manners and customs, how will it be possible for them to decide as touching the veracity, or propriety, of what these Letters contain? And this, by the way, may be one presumptive reason for supposing, that if you should publish them, though they may not be ushered into the world, supported by the commendatory good opinion of these gentlemen on the one hand, yet they
may

may also escape their censure on the other; unless they have adopted the same resolution which Doctor Tamponet and his colleagues of the Sorbonne did in their criticisms upon Mr. Marmontel's *Belifarius*. The story, as related by a French author of great reputation, is nearly as follows :

“ Father Triboulet, a Doctor of the Sorbonne, was drinking in Paris in what you would call a porter-house in London, at the same time that he was composing some essays, with the assistance of some books of divinity on the table before him, young Mademoiselle Fanchon, the alehouse-keeper's daughter, at the same time keeping him company, when they heard a noise in the street, and the voices of Doctor Tamponet and of Father Bonhomme, who had high words together, and were gathering a mob about them : Miss Fanchon put her head out at the window—both the Doctors being perfectly acquainted with her, came in also to drink.

“ Why

“ Why did you make such an uproar in the street ? said little Miss Fanchon to them. Because we cannot agree together, said Brother Bonhomme. Pray, did you ever agree together in the Sorbonne ? said Fanchon. No, replied Tamponet ; but we always give out our decrees, and decide by the plurality of votes how the universe ought to think. But if the universe laughs at you, or knows nothing at all about it ? said Fanchon. So much the worse for the universe, said Tamponet. But what the D——l was the matter ? asked Fanchon. How do you mean, my little wench ? said Father Triboulet ; the question was, to know whether the man who sold wine in this house about two thousand years ago is saved or not ? That’s nothing at all to me, said Fanchon. Nor to me neither, said Doctor Tamponet ; *mais certainement nous donnerons un decret.*”

The question with me, therefore, would be, whether it is more adviseable for a man to expose, even his lightest performances,
to

to the severity of wanton criticism on the one hand, or on the other to publish these Letters, if it is judged the public are likely to reap any entertainment or instruction from them? The decision of this question I leave, as above mentioned, entirely in your hands.

In my next I shall continue the account of our observations in and about this city and neighbourhood, having resolved to dedicate this whole epistle to answer fully the subject of your last.

Adieu!

LET-

LETTER XXI.

Porto, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

THIS Consul, our landlord here, is a most uncommon character; and when young, had been, it seems, also initiated in the mysteries of trade, and had begun in, perhaps, as fair a line of business as any other young man in London; but the attractions of a life of dissipation in that metropolis had more charms for his youth; and, when he came to reflect a little; the universality of his genius was not to be limited by the trammels of commerce, of which he retained what is only necessary for executing the office of Consul, and at the same time that he discharges it with all the punctuality and care of a man of honor, it
leaves

leaves him time sufficient to follow the bent of his own natural genius and inclination.

His attention in satisfying Lord Freeman's curiosity and my own, in all our enquiries, is unabating and evidently spontaneous; but he says, he feels himself under a sort of obligation to assist and instruct our young companion, John Carlos; for the insatiable desire he expresses to learn and pry into every object set before him, with the strong retentive faculty the Consul soon remarked in him, never forgetting any thing he once saw and considered thoroughly, inspired the Consul, if possible, with more satisfaction in teaching him than the other had to learn. John Carlos was acquainted only with common arithmetic, the Consul put a Simpson's Euclid into his hands, explaining to him what he thought necessary for a lad who had before no notion of such a study; but the eagerness with which he learned the different problems and theorems, astonished even the Consul, who had already formed a very advantageous opinion

nion of the young man's capacity. The Consul told us in confidence, he was a surprising genius, asking where we had picked him up? we told him all we knew of him, which indeed was very little, and that since we have been here, the young fellow has told us how infinitely he was obliged to the Consul for teaching him, how much he revered and respected him, and how much he envied his Galician boy the happiness of living with him, often wishing himself in his place. In all the excursions we make with the Consul and other company, we can never persuade this young fellow to accompany us; his constant answer is, that he has seen enough of the country, and not half enough of the Consul's library, in which he labours almost night and day; he is at the Consul's bed-side early every morning to ask questions, and receive new directions how he is to go on, for the fear of soon losing such a situation, by Lord Freeman's going to Lisbon, makes him redouble his diligence and application; he

was

was delighted when the Consul shewed him the use of Euclid's elements, of trigonometry, geometry, geography, &c. when applied to practice. All this is to him a perfectly new discovered country, and he appears to be enchanted with the striking clearness of mathematical demonstration, and I doubt not he will make a figure in that line, if he is furnished with the means of prosecuting it to advantage.

The day after our arrival here, the Consul carried us to pay our respects to the Chief Governor of the city and district of Porto, which comprehends some leagues round it, of the neighbouring country; his Excellency is cousin to the late Minister, who had united in his person the civil and military power, in this part of the kingdom, as he is a Lieutenant-General in the service, and Regent of the Supreme Court of Justice established here, from which there is no appeal but to that of Lisbon: His Excellency is very old, and worn down almost to a skeleton, has a small feeble person, but a monstrous

stirous prominent eagle nose; he frequently laments the sins or rather the sin of his youth; for, in the way of personal excess the people of this country know but one, and says, it is that which has reduced him so terribly; he is of a weak capacity, and no talents, but means well, and wishes to carry on the business of his government with impartiality, does all the good he can, and never hurts any one, though he has it often in his power; and this is a rare and most praise-worthy quality in this Gentleman; inasmuch as it is the leading principle in most of the Portuguese, when vested with authority, to exert it all in doing as much harm to others as they can. Remember the Consul is my author, and he has thirty years acquaintance with the country.

His Lady is now also well advanced in years, but reckoned sensible and polite; she is tall, has been handsome, and literally paints up to the ears, or rather she paints ears and all, for I observed them the other evening of as high a colour as her cheeks,

to soften which there is a sprinkling of powder daubed over the whole face afterwards; she has been very well shaped, and is still so, considering the number of children she has given to three husbands, to whom she has been successively married, as she was much sought after, as well on account of her personal qualifications, as of her noble birth; but it is unlucky that, even in this country of ignorance, lubricity and sloth, all the children this Lady has born and educated, which are above twenty, are remarkable, the males for an invincible stupidity and foolish sort of doltishness, which bid defiance to all the efforts of masters and teachers; and as for the females, they are noticed, even here, for a decided turn to gallantry; and as, by this Lady's prevailing interest, her sons are all decorated with respectable employments in the Church, the Law, or the Army, their want of brains becomes so much the more conspicuous, and has procured the worthy old Lady from the malicious part of her countrymen

countrymen the indecent epithet of the Breeder of Asses.

Be that as it may, Lord Freeman is generally of her Whist party of an evening; and when we do not ride into the country in the forenoon, we perambulate some part of the city with the Consul. We visited the great Cathedral Church, which is an old extensive building, without symmetry, and consists of many additional pieces, patched up together, without design, and put down in a site where it would be impossible to see its beauties, if it had any, a circumstance indeed rather favourable, considering its present deformities. We entered another new Church without the walls of the city, called (I think ironically) of the poor Clergy, with a very tall, ill-proportioned steeple, which has been raised at a vast expence; the inside of the Church is equally ornamented with a profusion of carving and gilding, without the shadow of taste or arrangement. Lord Freeman observed to the Consul, that large sums must have

been expended on such a fabric, and enquired how they were raised? By charitable contributions, said the Consul. We next came to the Church of the bare-footed Carmelites, a new building also; the whole frontispiece of which was covered with carving in stone, but in the same bad taste; the pediment (if it deserves the name) was crowned with three monstrous and ill-proportioned figures, representing Faith, Hope and Charity: the inside of this Church contained thirteen different Altars, all very richly ornamented up to the very roof, but in the most wretchedly uniform bad taste; on entering, it appeared to be entirely a blaze of gold and painting. Here again there has been a monstrous expenditure of money, said Lord Freeman, and I suppose this Convent must have a substantial revenue. Charitable contributions form all their revenue, said the Consul.

We now entered the great Franciscan Convent, almost opposite the Consul's own house; it is likewise a new building, part
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of it yet unfinished, and consists of two large squares of four stories high, with a spacious and well-lighted Corridor in the middle of each, and the Cells of the Fryars are on each side, to the number of two hundred and fifty. As soon as it was perceived the British Consul, so well known to all of them, had entered their house, he was immediately attended by a crowd of the reverend Gentlemen, the Father Guardian himself did him that honor, and, by his presence, made the others keep at a respectable distance; he was a tall stout man, with a pair of spectacles fixed before two goggle eyes, by a thread from them passed behind his ears; his thick yellow cordon, with five large knots upon it, in commemoration of the five wounds of Christ, was passed round his habit, almost under his arm-pits, and he was constantly pulling it up towards his chin before. He gave the Consul a hearty embrace, expressing how rejoiced he was to see him; that

he wished for some more of his advice and directions in finishing the buildings of the Convent, which he said he was now afraid would not be concluded within his triennial administration, which he, for his own part, wished was already at an end, that he might be at rest, and return again to the quiet enjoyment of his little Cell; that he believed Christian Charity had taken her flight from hence; that the Fryars now brought him little more than was necessary for the daily subsistence of the Convent; that the new buildings must certainly stop; that with the charge of such a numerous Convent, he had not a moment in which he might think of his own salvation; that he must be constantly on the watch, to prevent the young Fryars from rambling, and to send the old ones abroad to preach, exhort, absolve, and bring back charities to the community; that between the gadding disposition of the young Fryars and the laziness of the old, his Choir was never
more

more than half full; and that therefore the daily service of God and of his Saints was neglected.

The Consul condoled with him in his pious labours, and encouraged him to proceed in the same with resolution; assuring him, he was convinced it was by the interposition of the seraphic St. Francis himself, that his Reverence had been called to such a perilous and difficult charge, in such critical times, and that nothing less than his profound judgment and capacity could be equal to such a task. This last compliment seemed to tickle his Reverence exceedingly, and with it we took our leaves.

On coming away, Lord Freeman observed engraved over the great gate of the Convent in capital gilt letters, and in the Portuguese language, the words whereof the following is the exact translation: "The Virgin our Lady was conceived and born immaculate and without original Sin," and asked the Consul the meaning of that sentence being engraved there? the Consul answered him

first by observing, “ that he must have remarked both in Spain and here, that almost the whole devotion of the people is directed to the Virgin Mary and the other Saints, and very little either to God the Father or Son ; and that, though two rival and very respectable Orders of Religious affect to be both great worshippers of the Virgin, yet from an *Esprit de Corps*, they differ essentially in what is considered as a most material point : You must know, my Lord, (continued the Consul) that after the foolish impiety of Nestorius had bred a schism in the Church, by dividing Christ into two distinct persons, making two Sons, and denying him who was born of Mary to be God, the Church, in order to inculcate the Catholic truth in the minds of the people, made often mention of the Virgin, both in the East and West, in this short form of words, in Greek, *Μαρία Θεοτόκη*, or, Mary mother of God ; This being originally introduced only in honor of Christ, and in support of the orthodox doctrine, became gradually applied
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in honor of the Mother, and finally to her alone; and about the middle of the eleventh century, a daily Office was instituted to the Virgin, and in the hundred years next following, her worship encreased to such a degree, that she had divine honors paid to her, among which was attributed to her a total exemption from original sin, and consequently from sharing of its bad effects. About the year 1136, the Canons of Lyons had the zeal and assurance to bring it into their Ecclesiastical Office; and St. Bernard, who was otherwise a great stickler for the Virgin, wrote to those Canons, inveighing against such a practice, and reprehending them severely for introducing a dangerous novelty without reason, or any example from antiquity. The next century produced the Schoolmen, both among the Franciscans and Dominicans, who, in their writings, were unanimous in refuting this new doctrine of the immaculate conception of the Virgin, till about the year 1300, when John Duns Scotus arose, and supported it; and

and being a famous Divine, his doctrine was followed by the Franciscans, who shortly afterwards, affirmed the doctrine of the immaculate conception to be absolutely true; which Scotus had made out only as possible, and probable, under this doubtful condition, 'if it be not repugnant to the orthodox faith.' The Dominicans, on the other hand, opposed it strongly, and followed St. Thomas, of Aquinas, then famous for his scholastic learning, and for both him and his doctrine being canonized by Pope John the Twenty-second, to depress and mortify the Franciscans, who mostly adhered to the Emperor Lewis of Bavaria, whom that Pope had excommunicated; however, the popular shew of piety and devotion has made the Franciscan opinion go through, supported as it was by the University of Paris, then famous, and afterwards approved by the Council of Basil. The Dominicans have been obliged, almost ever since, to observe a cautious silence on this important article, whatever they may believe in their Con-

vents

vents concerning it; and the Franciscans triumphed, when they found that King John the Fourth of Portugal, and the first of the house of Bragança, was such a Devotee of the Virgin, that, when he assembled the Cortes in 1646, he publicly took her for Protectress of his kingdom, making it tributary to her in the sum of fifty cruzados yearly; and on the 25th of March, of the same year, he swore to and declared authentically, the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary, making all his subjects do the same, and notifying to the Universities of the kingdom, that all the students, before admission to any degree, should swear they would defend that mystery; so that exclusive of the Dominicans, it is now universally established here as an article of faith."

By the time the Consul had got to the end of his historical information, we had reached the library, and found it was now time to dress for dinner. Next Ordinary you shall hear more of our peregrinations. Adieu.

LET-

LETTER XXII.

Porto, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

TO walk much about this city, is, I assure you, rather a violent exercise; not one street in it being upon a level, excepting that where the most part of the English inhabit; all the others consist of ascents and descents, some of them so steep as to make it very difficult for any sort of wheel carriage to get on; for which reason, litters carried between a couple of stout mules are more in use here, and a much safer conveyance. Passing by the great Franciscan Convent in our walk this morning, I observed to the Consul that I supposed it was also built by charitable contributions, which he answered in the affirmative.

Lord

Lord Freeman was entering into a discussion of this species of charity, which induced people to lavish their money in useless and expensive buildings, when we arrived at a new and very extensive one, not much more than begun; it was to consist of a square of above 560 English feet each front; the Consul led us into a small house adjoining, and shewed us the plans, profiles and elevations of the building, which, he said, had been designed by an Architect, an old schoolfellow of his own in England, and had been examined by his Majesty the King of Great Britain, who, he said, was an excellent judge; that it was intended for a general Hospital, but was an undertaking much too immense for such a place as this, and would better serve the purpose of a general Infirmary for London or Lisbon; that, in the little of it which was executed, they had already departed very materially from the original design, and made many alterations for the worse; that it had been begun about twelve years ago, that the fund assigned for carrying it on,

on, did not afford above a thousand pounds sterling yearly, and that there was no great danger of its ever being finished, while Portugal remained in its present precarious situation, for that the whole estimate of the expence had been laid at about 300,000 pounds sterling.

As we were on our way home, we passed by another large massive building, very high, with strong iron grates and bars before all the windows; this the Consul informed us, was the Tribunal of the High Court of Justice for the City, and all the Northern Provinces of the Kingdom. Lord Freeman observed, that he did not think it was the most favorable indication of distributive justice, to see such ample accommodation made for criminals and prisoners; and seeing such a number of wretches deprived of their liberty, he asked, if there was any such thing as a jail delivery from time to time; so that the gibbet, the galleys and the plantations might have their due, and the innocent their liberty? The

Consul

Consul assured us there was no such thing, that, in almost all civil suits and litigations, sentences were obtained in favor of that party which could muster the most powerful *Empenhos*, preserving only the exterior forms and appearance of justice, and these, for evident reasons, were duly executed; that, in criminal processes, when the truth is even come at, and the sentence duly passed, it is seldom or never put in execution, unless indeed when a culprit is declared innocent, for then with a small *Empenho* he commonly obtains his liberty; and when even capitally convicted, he can by the same means obtain an eternal prorogation of the execution of the sentence. Pray, Consul (said Lord Freeman), explain to us, once for all, what is the meaning and nature of an *Empenho*, for I believe we have no word to correspond with it in English, and much depends on rightly understanding it. The Consul replied, that he judged very properly; that he would first give us a definition of the word, and then

illustrate

illustrate it by one example out of numbers, which had passed under his own eyes and knowledge.

“ An Empenho (continued the Consul) is the act, whereby a person in habits of friendship or intimate acquaintance with another, invested with power or authority, interposes earnestly with him in favor of a third person, most commonly a worthless, undeserving subject, in order to procure for him, against Charity, Reason and Justice, some special favor he does not deserve ; or to avert the imposition of those pains and penalties, whatever they be, he in the course of justice has incurred, and is become liable to by the law.

“ Now for the first example which occurs to me, and which will also enable you to form some idea of what the point of honor is held to be in this country. Two cousins-germans of this province of the *entre Douro e Minho*, both men of some property, one a widower, living upon his estate, with a maiden sister he had to take care of his family ;

mily; the other an Officer in a Regiment of Infantry, (whereof a most worthy friend of mine, now dead, was Colonel) entertained a violent jealousy of each other, on account of a lady, to whom they both made pretensions; this jealousy arose to such a degree of frantie rage in the breast of the widower, that he went out one day, prepared and well accompanied by servants, and meeting his cousin the Officer, ordered him to be seized and in his presence horse-whipped, by a negro slave he brought with him for the purpose; the Officer being without arms and unprovided against such an attack, after receiving the stripes, laid hold of his own beard, and told him he should certainly pay him for such an atrocious insult; the widower, who perfectly understood the meaning of the expression, left this part of the country for above three years, retiring into the kingdom of Galicia, after which, thinking his cousin's passion must be in some degree subsided, he returned to his estate,

never venturing however abroad but in the same litter with his sister, not supposing any Cavalier would be rude enough to attack him in the company of a lady; mean time the Officer, from the time he was horse-whipped, never appeared more in the Regiment, never heard Mass, nor shaved his beard, having solemnly sworn to do neither of the three, till he had taken, what is here reckoned, satisfaction for such an affront; he was all the while skulking about the country, disguised in a hermit's dress, and having found his cousin was returned to his country-house, he got together some companions, and waylaid him at a cross-road, near his own house, as he was returning to it one evening, with his sister in the litter, which he stopped, and telling the lady he had some small business with her brother, most politely desired her to alight; which she having done, he took a pistol from his sleeve and applied it to his cousin's forehead, and after discharging the contents, dragged

ged him out of the litter, and discharged another through his heart, as he lay weltering in his blood: this being done, he asked a thousand pardons of the lady, for having so far incommoded her, and begged to know, whither she wished to be conducted? she signified a desire to retire to a Convent, about ten miles from where the catastrophe happened, where she had an only sister a Nun, and the Officer, like a gallant Cavalier, conducted and lodged her safely with her sister.

“ This done, he returned to his Regiment, reported himself again fit for duty, dressed and appeared upon the parade as usual; and the rumour of this cowardly assassination going abroad, he was very far from denying it, and all the Nobility about, and men of honor, justified and applauded the action, saying, it was the least a man of birth and credit could do to vindicate his reputation.

“ Mean time, my friend, the Colonel of his Regiment, received the whole process

of the murder, with the examination of the witnesses in form, and the statement of all the circumstances tending to prove the crime committed, to which the Civil Magistrate of the district is by law enjoined to proceed, within a fixed time after he has notice of the same; and, if the delinquent is of the Army, the Magistrate then remits the process, duly signed and sealed, to the Commanding Officer of the Regiment he belongs to, in order to his being there tried by a Court-martial, according to the articles of war.

“ As soon as it was known here that the Colonel of the Regiment had received the process, a Nobleman of this city, with whom I am well acquainted, of a good estate, of considerable influence, and related to several of the first families at Court, and who well knew the intimate footing I was upon with the same Colonel, came to me, and requested a strong letter of Empenho to the Colonel, desiring that he would by no means proceed to a Court-

Court-martial against such a Subaltern of the Regiment; and telling me the whole affair, concluded by saying the Subaltern was a Nobleman, that he had behaved in the affair as he would have done himself, and moreover, that he was nearly related to his wife, who joined in desiring the same favor of me. I knew it was totally in vain to argue the matter with him, so strong are their prejudices, and so rooted in their mistaken notions of courage and honor; however, I could not help telling him my own opinion of it, which, I assured him, would also be that of my friend the Colonel; that I looked upon it as the basest and most cowardly species of deliberate murder, to attack a man riding peaceably about, within his own domain, without arms, and without apprehension of danger; that such a fellow ought to be hunted from society, as a creature much more mischievous than a mad dog, a serpent, or any other noxious animal; and that I was certain, were I to write fifty

letters of Empenho to my friend, they would be of no avail ; for that I well knew, he would do his duty, and execute the established laws of the land, in whatever regarded his particular, especially in a case so clear as the present, though he saw destruction and the gates of Hell open before his eyes. The Nobleman answered me very coolly and deliberately, “ Mr. Consul, (said he) I know you are well acquainted with the customs, the manners, and even the prejudices of this country, and every country has its prejudices. You know that there is no refusing a letter of Empenho, even to a beggar, and much less to a person of my rank and connections ; that, supposing my wife’s relation to be really the wretch you would make him, he has for that very reason the more need of protection from persons in authority ; that a man of virtue and probity has protection sufficient in his own character ; after I once grant my interest and protection to a criminal even of the blackest dye,

dye, the question runs no more upon the merits or demerits of that criminal; but it is whether or not my authority is to be regarded and respected by the person I apply to, and in whose power it is to protect that criminal from the rigour of justice and the law?"

" Infomuch then, (replied I to him) that my friend the Colonel, to oblige you, and shew his respect for you, must expose himself to the just animadversion of the military laws, by neglecting a most essential part of his duty; or, he must offend you grievously if he complies with it? Most certainly (returned the Nobleman). In that case, Sir, (said I) after the character I have given you of my friend, I leave you to judge on what part he will most readily decide. No matter, (answered he) give me the letter for him I ask of you; the rest will be at his peril, and an affair to be discussed between him and me. I accordingly gave him the letter, assuring him again it would be of no manner of use. This,

Gentlemen, is a true and home example of the nature of an Empenho."

I have not time at present to make remarks, which I may do on some future occasion, upon this extraordinary business of Empenhos here; only, by what I find, they are the ruin of every thing, and prevent every sort of business from being carried on as it ought to be. Good night,

L. T.

L E T T E R XXIII.

Porto, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

I Endeavour to divert my excellent companion Lord Freeman's fretting and vexation, at not hearing of his mistress's arrival in Lisbon, by proposing rides every day, to see many beautiful or romantic situations in this neighbourhood. One particularly, which struck him much, had been formerly a Convent belonging to the Canons regular of St. Austin; but had been secularized, as well as all the others of that Order in Portugal, to the number of twenty, preserving only two, to which the fat Canons were removed from all the others, in virtue of a Bull the Marquis of Pombal obtained from his friend the Pope Ganganelli;

nelli; all the rest of the houses and lands belonging to them, have been sold to the best bidder, and among them this beautiful place we visited, called Grijodè, for 100,000 cruzadoes, or about 11,000 pounds sterling, and not more than a third part of its value.

After this we resolved to take a trip of some days, farther into the country, directing our course, first to a town four leagues North from this, along the coast, called Villa do Conde. Lord Freeman observed, that this province in which we had not yet travelled, had a more flourishing appearance than any we had seen, and was better cultivated and inhabited. The Consul told us, that though in extent it was much the smallest province in the kingdom, it contained a greater number of people than any other, that in which the capital stands excepted; that it was watered by a number of fine rivers, some of which furnished the only salmon to be had in the kingdom, and from whence even the Madrid market was supplied,

plied, especially in Lent; and that the natives were remarkable for their application and industry wherever they went, but had very little inclination to a military life.

The only thing we saw at Villa do Conde worth remarking was the Convent of Nuns, which, as travellers and men of gallantry, we went to visit, as was expected of us: Here the best female blood of the province is assembled, for the Nobility particularly in this province are most miserably poor, and being as far above the meanness of doing any thing themselves to gain a livelihood, as above bestowing their daughters on any person they think in the least inferior to them in birth, they have no other resource, as they imagine, but to send them to this Convent to starve in character, without consulting their inclinations, any more than they would do in providing them with husbands, not considering the physical and constitutional hardships to which they expose them.

The

The Consul desired us to remark the aqueduct, which brought a stream of fine water to the Convent from the mountains, at above seven miles distant; and gave us the following account of it:

“ When the Portuguese, by as singular a manœuvre as any recorded in history, seconded by the negligence of the Conde Duque d’ Olivares, drove out the Spanish Government, and proclaimed the Duke of Bragança their King in 1640, the General who was charged with the military government of this province, had a sister then Lady Abbess of this very Convent, which at that time suffered extremely from the want of water, a most essential article in this country, especially in a Convent of Nuns; when therefore, this General issued his orders through the province, for raising the recruits to make up the quota he had the King’s commands to send to the Army, then acting defensively on the frontiers of the Alentejo, he thought he had a good occasion

to serve his sister and her Nuns; and added, by his own authority, that whoever wished to be exempted from serving in the Army, should come and work for a stipulated time, in assembling the materials and building an aqueduct, for the Nuns of Villa do Conde. Upon this almost the whole young fellows of the province poured in upon him, to assist at so pious a work; there were no recruits sent to the Army, and the aqueduct, as you now see it, was completely finished in a wonderful short time, without any expence either to the General or the Convent."

We remounted our horses, and took the road to the ancient city of Braga, the *Bracara Augusta* of the Romans, at six leagues distance within land from the coast, through a fine pleasant country, the roads mostly lined regularly with the dwarf oak, and the vine climbing entwisted round it, and shooting its branches suspended over the travellers heads as they pursue their journey, so that in the season they can gather plenty of grapes as they go along. The plains between

tween the high grounds were regularly divided by quickset hedges, lined with the dwarf oak as above, and looked green and rich, and were well stocked with cattle grazing. Lord Freeman remarked, that the country resembled England more than any thing we had seen, and was very different from, and superior to all the sun-burnt country we had yet travelled over in Portugal.

To amuse us on the road, I requested the Consul to finish the account he had begun concerning the letter of Empenho, which the Nobleman had extorted from him for his friend the Colonel. "Apropos, (said the Consul) I forgot to tell you, I had agreed with my friend before, that, though I should write him a thousand letters of Empenho, he was to pay no regard to them, unless it should happen that the request any of them contained, coincided with his own intentions or inclination; for in that case he might allow me the merit of obtaining the favor requested by the person who applies to me:

I now

I now proceed to inform you, that the Nobleman had my letter delivered to the Colonel, with a strong recommendation also from himself in favor of the prisoner, neither of which had the least effect; for he was tried by a Court-martial, and sentence of death passed upon him; and as the Count la Lippe happened to be in the kingdom at the time, it would have been put in immediate execution, had it not been for the strong and numberless Empenhos his relations made for him at Court, whereby the King changed the sentence, ordering him to be broke at the head of his Regiment, his uniform to be stripped from his back, his sash to be cut in two, his sword to be broken before him, and his person to be banished for ten years to the kingdom of Angola in Africa. The first part of the sentence was executed, and he was kept in the large prison you saw at Porto, in order to be transmitted by the first opportunity; but at the commencement of the present Administration, the Queen pardoned every thing,

thing, and ordered him to be restored to his post in the same Regiment.

“ You will ask, perhaps, why the prisoner was not transported according to his sentence? to this I have to answer, that he was only one of some hundreds in the same predicament; such was the lenity, or, to give it its true name, the relaxation of the Marquis of Pombal's Government; and though it is well known that he wished it should be thought rigorous and severe, yet it was so in reality, only to such as were the direct objects of his spleen and resentment.”

As we approached the city of Braga, Lord Freeman could not help remarking its beautiful situation, upon a rising ground, with a fine variegated country to the North, to the East, and to the West of it, with a range of hills, mostly covered with wood, to the South, which in this warm climate, serve to give it a cool refreshing appearance. I remarked, that by its topical situation, it ought to be very populous; however, when we entered it, we were miserably disappointed,
for

for, except in a few by-streets, where some hatters and nail-makers were at work, every thing wore the appearance of that melancholy stillness and quiet, which but ill agrees with the character of a thriving city. There had been made a feeble attempt to establish a silk manufactory here, by the late Minister, but for want of money and materials it had stopped. The Consul carried us to the house of a very old friend of his, a Canon of the great Cathedral; his house was in a very large oblong square, called, the Field of the Vineyard; three sides of this square were entirely occupied by Convents of different Orders of men or women, being no less than five large Castles of Indolence. The Canon was truly a jovial companion and a *bon vivant*; and, by keeping much company with the English and other foreigners at Porto and Lisbon, he had acquired a taste for that sort of society and confidential friendship, his countrymen were perfect strangers to; and, by this means to the na-

tural vice of his country, especially among Churchmen, I mean incontinence, this convivial Canon added that of a great affection for his bottle, which, he said, the English had taught him ; and, with very little regard to the dictates of morality, or even sometimes of common decency ; he was at the same time exceedingly scrupulous in repeating his Canonical hours, and other daily lessons of his Breviary, at any time or place, even in the middle of company, or the loosest conversation, in which he would join most heartily, mumbling over his lessons at any interval, when he was not obliged to talk to the company, and this with much more indifference and less concern than a school-boy repeats his task ; and when taxed by any English friend for doing it in that manner, he would gravely affirm, that by repeating barely the set words of his Office, he complied with the precept of the Church, which was all he was obliged to do, and all he cared for.

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With this worthy Ecclesiastic we waited upon his Royal Highness the Archbishop, a natural brother to the King, who received us very graciously, shewed us his library, and a pretty large collection of Roman medals, which, we may indeed say, we had seen at the Consul's before; for as the Archbishop had remitted them from time to time to the Consul to decypher and explain for him, the Consul had copied them upon a composition of his own preparing. We found in the library no books worth reading but the Encyclopedia; but it was the castrated edition. There was there likewise a crucifix with the figure of our Saviour, not much smaller than the life, cut in ivory, and, as was asserted, all made of one tooth of an elephant.

After paying our court to this Prince of the Church, we returned to the Canon's to supper, where every thing was set out in profusion; and, what most surpris'd us, a very fine young woman graced the head of the table, her name was Donna Maria The-

refa. She is of my own making, Gentlemen, (said the honest Canon) what is your opinion of her? We could not refrain paying compliments on the appearance of a person who seemed so richly to deserve them. It is true I was never married, (said the good old fellow, laughing) because I durst not, or if I had, I should have lost a substantial benefice, *sed Homo sum, et nihil humani a me alienum puto*; I am obliged to call her my niece here, among these hypocritical people, and she has four brothers, all stout young fellows, three of them are now abroad serving their King and country, and I intend renouncing my stall in favour of the fourth—Here the Consul observed to the Canon, that he was persuaded he had no occasion to apologize to the company present, for producing creditable and useful subjects to the state, which was, he thought, the duty of every good citizen, notwithstanding the newly invented Ecclesiastical rules to the contrary—Ah, the madmen of the Council of Trent! when our worthy Archbishop

bishop Don Bartholomew dos Martyres insisted, at the time they were about making the decrees for the celibacy of the Priests, that leave should be granted for the Clergy of his diocese to marry, and it was refused: I call God to witness, reverend brethren, (said that respectable Prelate in full Council) that You, and not I, shall be answerable henceforward, for that long list of procured abortions, of infanticides, and other abominable crimes, which celibacy will be the dreadful cause of, among the Ecclesiastics of my diocese; and you are laying a burden on our shoulders, which neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear.—Lord Freeman looked at the Consul, and said in English, that he had never heard a Churchman in the country utter so much sterling good sense before!—I was a man, my Lord, (said the Canon) before I was a Priest, and, I insist on it, that every duty and observance imposed on us as Churchmen, but incompatible with our characters as men, is a grievance and an absurdity, and, I thank God
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for it, without any foundation and authority, either in the Scripture or Tradition. I will freely confess one thing more to you, Gentlemen, (continued the sensible Priest) before I was a father, I was neither so good a man nor so good a subject as I have been since; I neither loved society so well, nor took such a lively interest in its happiness; I was a poor solitary insulated being, and I find myself become much more humane, sympathizing and compassionate, since I have felt the sweet overflowings of paternal affection, so delightfully employed in the education of my boys, and in teaching the girl before you, the true principles of a moral agent, being thoroughly convinced, that the ruinous practice of educating women in this country in idleness and ignorance, leaves them an easy prey to the first passion that assails them, unprovided as they are, with any rational principle, which might serve either to repress its violence, or to direct its course; and what adds to my satisfaction is, to find by the use my children have made
of

of my instructions, that they have neither been misemployed nor thrown away.

By this time the young lady was in tears, and the Consul, who had known her from infancy, asked her in his familiar way, what was the matter? She answered him, sobbing, "that she considered herself as the most fortunate, and at the same time the most ill-fated of her sex; that it was impossible for any heart to be more thoroughly impressed than her's was, with a sense of the infinite obligations she owed her father, for the pains and expence he had been at in giving her an education beyond what any woman there could boast of or enjoyed; but, oh! Sir, (added she) exclusive of the consideration, that on account of his Ecclesiastical character, all my hopes of any future establishment in life, according to the prejudices of this country, are entirely cut off, it grieves me to the soul, whenever I recollect that I cannot, dare not declare publicly to the whole world, that he is my father, that I cannot boast of it, and say, how much I love and
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adore the goodness and generosity of the man; and that all those various and strong sensations of filial gratitude, attachment and respect, with which I feel my heart daily more and more inflamed, must be for ever stifled and suppressed."

I looked about, and saw the tear of paternal affection swelling in the old man's eye, and I could with the utmost difficulty restrain my own. It was a scene truly affecting; I loved it, and at the same time wished to get out of it. The Consul made a motion to go to rest, and we all supported him. Good night.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



